



**THE
KIMBERLEY
REGIONAL GROUP**

Meeting Minutes

27 May 2026

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1. Meeting Open: 1:30pm

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 David Menzel (Chair)	President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley – left 3:29pm	Zoom
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	In Person
Cr Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	In Person
Observers		
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	In Person
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley – left 3:29pm	Zoom
Cr Raymond Simpson	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Halls Creek	In Person
Executive Support Team		
Paul Rosair	Principal, NAJA Business Consulting Services	Zoom
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal, Mira Consulting	In Person
Jane Lewis	Principal, Redit Research	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA	Zoom
Presentations		
Divina D'Anna MLA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification; Member for Kimberley	In Person
Bill Tatchell	CEO, Australia's North West Tourism	Zoom
Leon Gardiner	Superintendent, Kimberley Region, DFES	Zoom
Apologies		
Cr Brenda Garstone	President, Shire of Halls Creek	
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest

4. Minutes of the last meeting

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Secretariat

Attachment 1: Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
The Minutes of the Kimberley Regional Group held on 13 February 2026, 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 Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	See Attachment
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	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 Status/Progress 1. Complete.	Executive Team
13/02/2026	KRG 2024-25 Annual Report Action 1. Executive Team to upload the 2024-25 Annual Report to the KRG website. Status/Progress 1. Complete.	Executive Team
21/02/2024 & 23/08/2024 & 03/07/2025	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. Executive Officer to negotiate early bird pricing with Developing Northern Australia for the 2026 Conference in Alice Springs and consult members post local government elections on attendance at the 2026 Conference. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. Deferred. 3. Complete. Note: Members to ensure all invoices for accommodation and additional events have been paid.	Executive Team / KRG Secretariat

10/04/2025 & 03/07/2025	Formal Presentations: Action 1. Shires to circulate ABS job roles when advertised through networks. 2. The Executive Officer to liaise with RDA Kimberley and the DPIRD Deputy Director General, Industry and Economic Development to understand progress of a potential WA government partnership with the Northern Australia Infrastructure facility (NAIF)and/or the establishment a small loans scheme similar to the Northern Territory. 3. The Executive Officer to draft an insurance position paper for KRG, in light of the RDA Kimberley Insurance Review Report Status/Progress 1. Ongoing. Note RDA Kimberley circulated Broome based 2026 Census Operational Support Centre Engagement Manager role which closed 15 June for Councils to circulate 2. Complete. The 2024 Independent Review of the NAIF Act 2016 was tabled in Federal Parliament in August 2025. The Recommendation 21 of is that <i>The NAIF establish a targeted direct small loans program for First Nations enterprises or projects beyond any arrangements made between the NAIF and the state and territory governments.</i> Recommendation 20 is that <i>The NAIF continue to work with the state governments of Western Australia and Queensland to establish small loans programs.</i> The Executive Officer will continue to liaise with RDA Kimberley regarding the progress of these recommendations. 3. In Progress.	Executive Officer
Submission – Determinants of Regional Airfares		
13/02/2026	Action: 1. KRG members to provide feedback by 8 March 2026. 2. KRG Executive team to incorporate feedback and lodge submission by 15 March 2026. Status / Progress: 1. Complete. 2. Complete. Submission lodged 15 March 2026.	Executive Team / Members
KRG Workshop Outcomes		
13/02/2026	Action: 1 CEOs to liaise with their Councils on what they would like to see in the Strategic Plan and Business Plan. 2 CEOs to meet to confirm the strategic areas for progression and key actions for presentation to KRG for endorsement. 3 Executive Team to update Strategic Business Plan. Status / Progress: 1. Complete. 2. Complete. Meeting held 23 March 2026. 3. Complete.	Executive Team / CEOs

WALGA Position – Native Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position		
03/07/2025	Action: 1. The Executive Officer to contact the State Government to confirm if the submission timeframe is still open. 2. The Executive Officer to explore the possibility of making a direct submission to the State's Native Clearing Regulations Review Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. Subject to outcome of Action 1.	Executive Officer
Position Papers		
10/04/2025 & 03/07/2025	Action 1. Executive Team to draft a Land Tenure Reform Position Paper, July 2025, with the Executive Officer to conduct a further review to ensure that the rights and opportunities of Native Title holders are reflected and that the position put forward is legally robust and practical. 2. The Executive Officer to seek an update from the Kimberley Development Commission on the status of the PBC Capability Building project. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. Complete. The KDC advised that the Department of Premier and Cabinet DPC is holding carriage of this work and they are not sure if it is being progressed. The initial work was internally completed by the Regional Development Commissions as a regional initiative. This work is not for public distribution. Note PBCs can access funding through the Commonwealth National Indigenous Australians Agency Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS), called 'PBC Capacity Building grant funding' to grow organisational capacity and generate economic benefits from their land. This initiative (\$114.8 million for 2024–25 to 2028–29) is designed to strengthen Native Title corporations. Funding can enhance organizational, economic, and land management capabilities, with applications open year-round until 30 June 2026.	Executive Officer
Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing		
16/02/2024 & 10/04/2025	Action 1. Executive Officer to develop a template for members to populate to support the advocacy strategy. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. Matter raised during the Department of Communities presentation at February 2026 meeting.	Executive Officer

2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group – KRG Representative																	
10/04/2025	Refer General Business Action - Executive Officer and KRG Members to develop a list of priority projects for consideration by the Eclipse Working Group. Status / Progress: - The Secretariat is the KRG representative on the Eclipse Working Group - It was agreed that Shires would send their project ideas to the Secretariat / the Working Group for consideration.	Executive Officer / Members															
Review of Financial Assistance Grants																	
23/11/2023	Action: - Executive Officer to meet with the Grants Commission to discuss submission. Status / Progress: - A representative of the WA Grants Commission presented at the April 2026 Kimberley Zone meeting. He advised that as a result of the KRG (and other submissions) the Commission made changes to the Aboriginality cost adjuster formula which supports council with very high Aboriginal populations and often limited revenue-raising capacity and the location cost adjuster which shifted from 60% on ARIA remoteness and 40% on population to 70% ARIA and 30% population. Also, the population dispersion costs adjuster was reviewed. These changes led to significant increases to grants for Deby-West Kimberley, Halls Creek and Wyndham East Kimberley. This is outlined below 2025-26 Kimberley Local Government GPG equalisations <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Shire</th><th>2024-25</th><th>2025-26</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Broome</td><td>1,050,698</td><td>1,062,956</td></tr> <tr> <td>Derby West Kimberley</td><td>8,750,383</td><td>11,800,529</td></tr> <tr> <td>Halls Creek</td><td>6,421,881</td><td>9,191,866</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wyndham East Kimberley</td><td>6,653,681</td><td>7,687,568</td></tr> </tbody> </table> - Advocacy for changes to the Financial Assistance Grants methodology to better address the needs of Kimberley Councils will continue.	Shire	2024-25	2025-26	Broome	1,050,698	1,062,956	Derby West Kimberley	8,750,383	11,800,529	Halls Creek	6,421,881	9,191,866	Wyndham East Kimberley	6,653,681	7,687,568	Executive Officer
Shire	2024-25	2025-26															
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Wyndham East Kimberley	6,653,681	7,687,568															

Kimberley Housing Roundtable and Housing Advocacy		
23/08/2024 & 11/10/2024 & 10/04/2025 & 03/07/2025 & 13/02/2026	Action - 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. - That the Executive Team - Develop a brief scope of works for KDC for funding (20K) to progress the Kimberley Housing pipeline. - Work with the KDC to explore innovative solutions for the Kimberley that may attract government investment interest. - Councils to provide their project timeframes and cashflow requirements to the Executive Officer. - Executive Officer to organise a meeting with the Four Shire Presidents and Leon McIvor (Director General, Department of Housing and Works WA) to discuss the Housing Pipeline - CEOs to work with the EO to update the Kimberley Housing Pipeline. - Executive Officer to draft a letter to the Premier raising housing issues. - Executive Officer to arrange a KRG meeting with Minister Carey. - Executive Officer to discuss KRG member's housing needs with HAFF and whether they align with HAFF round 3 grants or other grants. Status / Progress: - Complete. - The KDC advised that they are updating their Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023. This should be finalised within a couple of months. - To be updated with new pipeline approach. - To be updated with new pipeline approach. - Executive to work with CEOs to update the pipeline - Paused pending updated pipeline. - Paused pending updated pipeline. - Complete. KRG member's housing needs and alignment with HAFF and round 3 grants discussed at February 2026 meeting and March CEO meeting.	Executive Team / Members

Shared Services		
20/06/2024 & 10/04/2025	Action - 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. - Secretariat and Members to progress actions arising from the KRG CEO meeting held 15 August 2025. Status / Progress: - In Progress. This was discussed at the Strategy Workshop. - In Progress.	Executive Officer / CEO's / Secretariat
Canberra Trip 2026		
25/09/2025	Action - Secretariat and Executive Officer to explore possible dates in 2026 and report back to the members. - Executive Officer to review and refine the Kimberley Housing Pipeline to create a more robust and visual document in preparation for the budget cycle and 2026 Canberra visit. - Executive Officer to review the Timber Creek Native Title decision and its relevance to the Kimberley and the effect on the KRG members. - Executive Officer to progress actions from the Canberra meetings - Darren Skuse; Senior Advisor to Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy: The Executive Officer to liaise with NBY regarding access/applicability on funding opportunities. - Hon Clare O'Neil MP: The Executive Officer to research federal housing grant opportunities for all KRG projects e.g. McMahon Estate. - Senator Susan McDonald: The Executive Officer to write to the ACCC to monitor airline charges on the Kimberley/NT route (Nexus/Air North). Status / Progress: - In Progress. - In Progress. - Complete. Refer Item 11. - In Progress. - In Progress. - Complete. - Complete. Refer Correspondence.	

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.

The Executive Officer met with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Director General Department of Planning Lands and Heritage on this issue and is undertaking advocacy to ensure that there is clarity for local governments working with this legislation.

State government funding to support young people in the Kimberley. New \$4M community-led Immediate Response Night Space (IRNS) service for young people in Broome and Fitzroy Crossing. Funding for new services in Derby and Halls Creek. There remains no overarching State or Federal Government youth justice strategy for the region.

Note an a

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. The State Labor election commitment to invest \$15.5M to upgrade facilities at the Kimberley ports is allocated in the WA budget. The members discussed the slow roll-out and lack of urgency regarding the implementation of First Point of Entry status in Wyndham. It was agreed that this item be carried forward under Matters Arising.

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 has released its call for submissions for the inquiry into the *Determinants of Regional Airfares*. Submissions were requested by 15 March 2026.

Resolved

Media and Communications Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Lord Mayors Distress Relief Funding
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
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: issues raised with Minister Dawson 2025.
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 – resolved
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: distributed to key stakeholders, uploaded to KRG website, media release, and LinkedIn post.
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package endorsed at February 2025 meeting: Executive Summary prepared: issues raised with Minister Stojkovski 25/06/25: full report provided
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
Meeting held with Karen Wheatland, Labor candidate for Durack and KRG Chair and Secretariat
Shire of Carnarvon – Vote of no confidence; Executive Officer met Minister Stojkovski on 25/06/25 re Kimberley matters.
Election advocacy, communications & engagement plan for 2025 State and Federal elections
Rates Exemptions Position Paper designed and printed as per meeting July 2025
Draft KRG 2025/26 budget presented and endorsed at 25 September 2025 meeting.

Resolved
2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group: correspondence to KDC re Tanami Rd opportunities
Canberra trip and meetings with key stakeholder's 1 st & 2 nd September 2025
EO wrote to the Australian Bureau of Statistics reinforcing the importance of the Kimberley Census of Population and Housing pilot and the KRG's support for this new approach.
EO & A/CEO KDC continue to meet to discuss the Kimberley Housing Pipeline as KDC is progressing a review of its Residential Housing and Land Snapshot which includes Housing Demand data.
Grant Guru not progressing subscription for KRG – Shires to progress independently
Land Tenure Reform report sent to the Jeff Gooding, Commissioner for the Shire of Derby West Kimberley.
Share Services meeting with CEOs held 3 July 2025.
EO briefed Jeff Gooding, Commissioner for the Shire of Derby West Kimberley on the work undertaken on housing
KRG Planning Workshop held 14 November 2025
Meeting held Monday 20 October 2025 with Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; and the Great Southern
North West Defence Alliance – KRG Representative. Member Shire Presidents are a member of the NWDA as individual Councils contribute funds. KRG does not contribute funds. Issues can be brought to KRG by members
Regional Waste Management item discussed at November 2025 planning workshop
Extension of Executive Officer contract from 08/12/25 – 07/12/27. 3.6% CPI increase for 08/09/25 – 07/09/26
Kimberley Housing Advocacy: EO provided information on the level of government subsidy required to unlock housing investment in the Kimberley and identified Sanctuary Road, Broome as a priority project. EO liaised with the Acting CEO of KDC on demand data and next steps to progress the Kimberley Housing Pipeline with the WA Government. KDC updated its Residential Land and Housing Snapshot.

5. Correspondence

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Secretariat

Attachment 2: Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Attachment 3: Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity

Attachment 4: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

Refer Item 14: Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity

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

Correspondence In	
Date	14/04/2026
From	Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
Topic	Preliminary Invitation to Public Hearing 29 April 2026 in Kununurra, WA
Attachment	2
Date	14/05/2026
From	Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity
Topic	Submission acknowledgement – Inquiry into Intergenerational Housing Inequity
Attachment	3
Correspondence Out	
Date	20/05/2026
From	KRG Executive Officer
To	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
Topic	Regional Airfare Costs and Airline Competition in Northern Western Australia
Attachment	4
Date	01/05/2026
From	KRG Executive Officer
To	Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity
Topic	Housing inequity
Attachment	Refer Item 14

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 Broome	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 2 Correspondence In: Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee, Aviation Sector Inquiry Public Hearing Invitation - Kununurra 29 April 2026

From: **RRAT, Committee (SEN)** <RRAT.Sen@aph.gov.au>

Date: Tue, 14 Apr 2026, 6:25 am

Subject: Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee: Inquiry into Australia's aviation sector—regional service delivery - Preliminary Invitation to Public Hearing 29 April 2026 in Kununurra, WA

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Inquiry into Australia's aviation sector—regional service delivery

14 April 2026

Mr Paul Rosair Executive Officer

Kimberley Regional Group

Via email: paul@naja.com.au

jane@reditresearch.com.au

Dear witness,

The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee is conducting an inquiry into the [state of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities](#). As part of this process, the committee has agreed to hold a public hearing in **Kununurra, WA** on **Wednesday, 29 April 2026**.

This email is a preliminary invitation for you/your organisation to appear as a witness at the public hearing on **Wednesday, 29 April 2026**. Your indicative time for appearance is between **9.15am-10.15am** (AEDT), subject to finalisation of the program. If the time does not suit the key witnesses, please let me know and we can discuss alternatives.

The committee will expect that you attend in person, if possible, but remote participation can be arranged where necessary. Please let the secretariat know if you are unable to attend in person.

The secretariat expects to send your formal invitation in the next week. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if you could indicate your acceptance of the invitation and availability for this hearing and provide the names and positions of likely witnesses by **COB Friday, 17 April 2026**.

Please feel free to call me with any questions on 6277 3511.

Yours sincerely, Emma

Dr Emma Banyer | Principal Research Officer

Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Committee Office | Department of the Senate

Phone RRAT 02 6277 3511 or direct 02 6277 3025 | [RRAT Committee website](#)

Attachment 3 Correspondence In: Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity;
Submission acknowledgement – Inquiry into Intergenerational Housing Inequity

From: Committee, Housing Inequity (SEN) <housinginequity.sen@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2026 11:40 AM
To: Michelle Mackenzie <michelle@mira-consulting.com.au>
Subject: Submission Acknowledgement - Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity

14 May 2026

Mr Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group

via email: paul@naja.com.au
michelle@mira-consulting.com.au

Dear Mr Rosair,

Submission acknowledgement – Inquiry into Intergenerational Housing Inequity

Thank you for the submission to the above inquiry. I write to advise that the submission has been accepted by the committee and has been published on the committee website as submission number 55 and can be viewed [here](#).

Personal contact information and signatures are removed from submissions prior to publication. If you have any concerns about the publication of your submission, please contact the secretariat urgently.

Your submission as accepted and published by the committee is protected by [parliamentary privilege](#). This means it is unlawful for anyone to threaten or disadvantage you for making the submission or for its contents. Please contact the secretariat if you believe that anyone has threatened or disadvantaged you as a result of the submission you have made.

The committee is due to report by Wednesday, 30 September 2026 and its report will be published on the [inquiry webpage](#). You can sign up to receive emails when new information about the inquiry is published by clicking "track inquiry" on the inquiry webpage.

Thank you for participating in this inquiry. Should you require any further information concerning the committee's inquiry, please contact the committee on (02) 6277 3133 or by emailing housingintegrity.sen@aph.gov.au.

Yours sincerely
(sent electronically)

Alan Raine

Committee Secretary

Attachment 4 Correspondence Out: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC),
Regional Airfare Costs and Airline Competition in Northern Western Australia

Sarah Proudfoot
CEO
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
GPO Box 3131
Canberra
ACT 2601

20 May 2026

Dear Ms Proudfoot

Regional Airfare Costs and Airline Competition in Northern Western Australia

I write on behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) regarding ongoing concerns associated with the cost, frequency and reliability of regional air services servicing Northern Western Australia, particularly the route between Darwin, Kununurra and Broome.

The Kimberley Regional Group represents the Shires of Broome, Derby-West Kimberley, Halls Creek and Wyndham East Kimberley and advocates collectively on issues affecting economic development, liveability and regional sustainability across the Kimberley region.

The KRG acknowledges the challenges associated with providing aviation services into remote and regional Australia, including operational costs, market scale and seasonal demand fluctuations. However, there is growing concern across government, industry and the broader community regarding the affordability and accessibility of air services into and within the Kimberley.

Over recent years the region has with respect to air travel in general experienced:

- Significant increases in airfare costs on key regional routes;
- Reductions in flight frequency and scheduling flexibility;
- Limited airline competition on major Kimberley routes;
- Reduced connectivity between regional centres and capital cities;
- Increasing difficulty for businesses and government agencies to secure affordable travel options; and
- Growing concerns regarding the economic and social impacts of constrained aviation access.

The cessation of services by Nexus Airlines on the Darwin–Kununurra–Broome route has left Airnorth as the only operator on that route. This has had a significant impact on regional connectivity across Northern Australia and the Kimberley. The withdrawal of the service reduced already limited competition on the route network, further constraining passenger choice and contributing to significantly increased airfare costs and reduced scheduling flexibility for residents, businesses and government agencies. The service had provided the important east–west connection between the Kimberley and the Northern Territory, supporting tourism, workforce mobility, access to specialist services and broader economic interaction between the regions. Its cessation has reinforced the vulnerability of remote aviation networks where limited competition and thin markets can quickly result in reduced service levels, higher travel costs and diminished regional accessibility.

The Kimberley is heavily reliant on aviation connectivity due to the vast distances involved and the limited availability of alternative transport options. Air services are not simply a convenience for the region — they are critical enabling infrastructure.

High airfare costs and reduced service levels are impacting:

- Tourism visitation and tourism industry competitiveness;
- Workforce attraction and retention across government and private industry;
- Access to health, education and specialist services;
- Business investment and economic development opportunities;
- Government service delivery costs;
- Family and community connectivity; and
- Regional liveability generally.

There is particular concern that airfare pricing on this route appears disproportionately high relative to travel distances and comparable domestic services elsewhere in Australia.

The current environment is also creating broader economic risks for Northern Australia. The Kimberley region is strategically significant from tourism, agricultural, resources, defence and Aboriginal economic development perspectives. Continued constraints around aviation accessibility have the potential to limit investment confidence and restrict future economic growth.

The KRG is therefore seeking that the ACCC consider:

1. Monitoring airfare pricing trends on the route between Darwin, Kununurra and Broome;
2. Review whether there is monopoly behaviour due to the lack of competition operating on this route and if there are any barriers to increased market participation;
3. Examining the broader impacts of reduced aviation competition on regional communities and regional economies; and
4. Considering whether additional regulatory or policy mechanisms may be required to support affordable and accessible regional aviation services.

The KRG believes there is strong merit in a broader national discussion regarding the role of regional aviation as essential economic infrastructure, particularly for remote regions such as the Kimberley where alternative transport options are limited.

The region's long-term economic development capacity will increasingly depend on reliable, affordable and competitive air connectivity.

The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further with the ACCC and to provide additional regional context regarding the impacts currently being experienced across Northern Western Australia.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer

6. Financial Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Vernon Lawrence, KRG Secretariat

Attachment 5: Kimberley Regional Group Financial Report to 31 March 2026

Purpose

To update the KRG members on the financial position of the Group.

In summary

This report presents the Kimberley Regional Group Interim Financial Activity Statement for the period ended 31 March 2026. The report recommends that the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) receives the Financial Activity Statement.

Background

Previous Considerations

The KRG adopted its annual budget for the 2025/26 Financial year at the meeting on 25 September 2025. At this meeting a report relating to the finances for the financial year to 30 June 2026 was approved by the KRG assuming that there were to be no project work to be undertaken.

This report is for the financial activity for Quarter 3 of the 2025/26 financial year. Quarterly reports are tabled at meetings as soon after the end of each quarter as is practical.

Comment

The Financial Activity Statement presents a current surplus position of \$322,052 represented by a cash balance held in reserve at the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. The performance against budget year to date is a surplus of \$60,678. This recognises membership income in full for the year.

With respect to income, the outstanding contribution at the date of the last report has been paid and now all contributions from members have been paid for the 2025/26 financial year. No apportionment of interest has been made at the date of this report. Interest received will be calculated as part of financial year end processes and is estimated to exceed the amount budgeted for.

The expenditure to date is in line with the year to date budget at \$119,322. The two items exceeding the year to date budget. The first is Delegation Expenses for the trip undertaken to Canberra in September 2025 and payments for the upcoming Developing Northern Australia Conference totalling \$15,981 for the financial year. The second exceeding budget is for reimbursable travelling and accommodation costs of and executive hours spent in setting up meetings, preparation of documents and attendance at meetings of \$5,221. An amount for a small project on the housing snapshot was expended in the amount of \$1,500. No budget has been provided for this, but as expenditure is below budget for the year to date no additional appropriation is required at this time.

The cash position of the KRG remains healthy and there are sufficient funds to fund future operations and programs. No budget allocations have been made yet for any further project work.

CONSULTATION

Nil.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Financial Implications

As at the 30 June 2025 the Kimberley Regional Group cash balance was \$261,374. Expenses for the period ending 31 March 2026 were \$119,322 against a budget of \$137,250. The closing cash balance is \$322,052 held in reserves by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley on behalf of the KRG.

Strategic Implications

Governance Goal – A collaborative group demonstrating strong regional governance:

Effective governance protocols and systems for business efficiency and improved services through collaboration

Secure funding for regional initiatives

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor			
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The Kimberley Regional Group noted: <i>the Interim Financial Report to 31 March 2026;</i> <i>the \$60,676 year to date operating budget surplus;</i> <i>that the 2025/26 members contributions have all been received;</i> <i>the \$300,052 cash surplus position represents the total members interests at 31 March 2026 held in reserve at the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.</i>			
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 5: Kimberley Regional Group Financial Report to 31 March 2026

Kimberley Regional Group - Financial Activity Statement for the period ending 31 March 2026	Annual Budget 2025/26	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date
Expenditure			
Kimberley Regional Group - Zone & RCG Meeting Expenses	6,000	4,500	166
Kimberley Regional Group - Delegation Expenses	12,000	9,000	15,981
Kimberley Regional Group - Annual Financial Audit	5,000	3,750	-
Kimberley Regional Group - IT Support	1,000	750	680
Kimberley Regional Group - Sundry Expenses	1,000	750	200
Kimberley Regional Group - Policy creation	3,000	2,250	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Website upgrade	2,000	1,500	20
Kimberley Regional Group - Projects	-	-	1,500
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy	150,000	112,500	95,552
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy - reimbursable costs	3,000	2,250	5,221
Kimberley Regional Group - North West Defence Alliance	-	-	-
	<u>183,000</u>	<u>137,250</u>	<u>119,322</u>
Income			
Kimberley Regional Group - Reimbursement Zone & RCG Meetings Expenses - Op Inc	-	-	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Members Contribution Secretariat Costs - Op Inc	-180,000	- 135,000	- 180,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Disbursement from Reserve.	-	-	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Interest on Reserve - Op Inc.	-3,000	- 2,250	-
	<u>- 183,000</u>	<u>- 137,250</u>	<u>- 180,000</u>
Net Operating Result	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>- 60,678</u>
Opening Cash Balance	261,374	261,374	261,374
Outstanding Contributions			-
Interim Operating Result			60,678
Closing Cash Balance	<u>261,374</u>	<u>261,374</u>	<u>322,052</u>

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
1:30pm – 1:45pm	Divina D'Anna MLA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification; Member for Kimberley
1:45pm – 2:00pm	Bill Tatchell	CEO, Australia's North West Tourism
2:45pm – 3:00pm	Leon Gardiner	Superintendent, Kimberley Region, DFES

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor	Nil
Resolution/s		Action(s)
Noted.		EO to keep KRG members informed about any upcoming meetings with politicians. Members to notify the EO if they wish to attend accordingly.

8. KRG Strategic Plan and Action Plan

Item for decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 6: Draft KRG Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Attachment 7: Draft Action Plan 2026-2027

Purpose

To finalise the KRG Strategic Plan and Action Plan

In summary

- A planning workshop was held on 14 November 2025 at the Shire of Broome
- The workshop discussed strategic priorities and actions
- The CEOs as tasked obtained feedback from their Shires on what they would like to see in the Strategic Plan and Business Plan, and met with the Executive to review the Strategic Plan and Business Plan and to confirm the key strategic areas for progression and key actions.
- The attached draft Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and Action Plan 2026-2027 were circulated to the CEOs for final input prior to presenting the KRG.
- The Strategic Plan 2025-2030 will become a public facing document uploaded onto the KRG Website and used as an information, marketing and advocacy tool.
- The progress of items in the Action Plan will be reported at each KRG meeting.

Background

As above

Details

The priority areas for action in 2026 / 2027 are

1. Housing and access to developable land
2. Safer Communities – youth, community safety and crime prevention
3. Health and Wellbeing – fit for purpose management of alcohol and other drugs and management of people who travel to towns and to return to county
4. Regional Waste Management- fit for purpose waste management facilities
5. Regional collaboration opportunities

Project scopes will be developed for these core priorities and decisions made on whether consultants need to be engaged to undertake the projects.

Risk

Reputational and financial : KRG efficiency and advocacy weakened without a strategic and aligned focus

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor	- Up to \$1000 to design and print the KRG Strategic Plan 2025-2030 - It is anticipated that the cost for each strategic project will be between \$30-\$100K – this will be confirmed through a scope of works and tender process.	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG 1. Endorsed the revised Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and Action Plan 2026–27, including amendment of the Canberra trips from two to one; and 2. Allocated up to \$1,000 to design and print the KRG Strategic Plan 2025-2030		Executive Team to amend the Action Plan to reflect one trip to Canberra rather than two trips. Executive Team to progress the design and printing of the KRG Strategic Plan Executive Team to include the Action Plan in each agenda and report on action status.	
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 6: Draft KRG Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Kimberley Regional Group Strategic Plan 2025 - 2030

To be rebranded and designed once endorsed

<https://kimberleyrg.com.au/>

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About us

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

Each member Shire provides a range of infrastructure and services that make their communities a great place to live, to work and to do business. Collectively the Kimberley Regional Group's focus is on strategic Kimberley wide issues that impact all Shires and their communities. This strategic focus enables KRG members to work together to enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley region, supporting positive outcomes through improved social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes.

The Kimberley Regional Group's values are expressed through:

- Collaboration with integrity to achieve our collective vision
- Acknowledging and respecting the strength of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal culture
- Environmental sustainability and responding to climate change through sustainable technologies
- Commitment to innovation
- Valuing economic diversity in scope and scale.

Working together the KRG achieves positive regional outcomes that deliver positive outcomes for local communities and lay the foundations for future generations to thrive, whilst respecting Aboriginal culture and the Kimberley's natural environment.



Our Vision

Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world

The focus of the KRG is to advocate for the right infrastructure, services, policy settings, partnerships and investment that will deliver our vision. This means the four Shires working collectively and in partnership with our communities, government, industry and business to facilitate positive economic, social, environmental and cultural regional outcomes.

The KRG recognises the abundant opportunities and growing potential of the Kimberley –

- Increase in international trade due to the Kimberley's close proximity to South-East Asia, time-zone and transport infrastructure including international ports and regional airports and road links to Perth, Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Address climate change challenges through the use of the region's abundant land, sunshine, wind, hydro power and tides to drive renewable energy and sustainable technologies delivering environmentally, social and culturally responsive growth,
- Attract national and international tourists due to the region's diverse natural beauty, rugged ranges, long golden beaches, deserts, spectacular tropical gorge country and strong Aboriginal culture.
- Diversification and value adding of the pastoral and agricultural sectors, with significant irrigated agricultural production through the Ord River Scheme, along with aquaculture, and dryland horticulture production.
- Expanded exploration, mining, extractive and minerals industries with the growing market demand for critical minerals, and products such as oil and natural gas
- Aboriginal business sector in particular in the tourism, cultural industries, pastoralism and construction sectors, providing enormous opportunity to drive economic opportunity for Aboriginal people and the whole region.

To realise these opportunities, it is critical that Kimberley towns are safe with the amenity and services for people to live well and for businesses to thrive, including access to affordable housing, health, education, sport and recreation facilities, youth services, transport and telecommunications infrastructure.

Our Vision

Our Region

About the Kimberley

Insert a map of Australia and a map of the Kimberley showing the Shires

DRAFT

Our structure

Our Structure

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) comprises the four Kimberley Shires and was formed to focus on key issues specific to the Kimberley region.

Operating under a Memorandum of Understanding, the four Shires collaborate through a Board with one elected representative from each Shire r with a deputy representative able to attend meetings along with the Shire CEOs. The KRG Chair and Deputy Chair are elected after the Local Government elections are held.

Each Shire provides a financial contribution towards the operations of the KRG. The Shire that Chairs the KRG co-ordinates secretarial functions and manages the KRG finances.



Member Shires

Kimberley Regional Group Members



Shire of Halls Creek

The Shire of Halls Creek has significant resource sector opportunities including gold, copper and dysprosium. With a population of around 4,000 people, and 78% identifying as Aboriginal, the Shire covers an area of 143,030sq/km including remote Aboriginal communities, the World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park, Wolf Creek Meteorite National Park (Kandimalal) and Lake Gregory (Paruku), along with significant mining and pastoral interests.



Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley covers some 117,514 sq/km and includes Wyndham Port, the East Kimberley Regional Airport and the Ord River Scheme, and the towns of Kununurra and Wyndham. The Shire is home to 8,300 people and renowned for its mining, agriculture and pastoral industries, natural beauty and attractions including Lake Argyle, and conservation and marine parks. The Shire includes many remote Aboriginal communities.



Shire of Derby / West Kimberley

The Shire of Derby-West Kimberley has a population of around 8,500 people and covers an area of 119,842 square kilometres. Spanning from Derby 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 Horizontal Falls. The Shire includes many remote Aboriginal communities along with significant pastoral interests.



Shire of Broome

The Shire of Broome covers approximately 56,000 square kilometres. The Shire has a coastline of 900 kilometres including the world-famous Walmanjurn Cable Beach and much of the Dampier Peninsula. The Shire contains the Broome Port, Broome Airport and has a strong tourism, pearling and pastoral industry. The Shire is home to around 18,800 people, which swells during the tourist season. The Shire contains Broome, the largest town in the Kimberley along with a number of remote Aboriginal communities.

Key Pillars

Our Pathway Forward

Our priorities focus on an inclusive community, free of disadvantage and placed to effectively engage in economic opportunity whilst respecting our history, culture and environment.

Our four key pillars of People, Place, Prosperity and Performance, provide the framework for the work of the KRG.

Key Pillars



PEOPLE

A vibrant community based on equity, inclusion and opportunity for all.



PROSPERITY

The potential of the Kimberley as a strong and diversified economy is realised with benefits retained in the region and participation available to all.



PLACE

Our region will become a leader in creating a sense of place and liveability whilst preserving history, culture and our unique environment.



PERFORMANCE

As a collective, we will support the delivery of excellence in governance and service delivery that is relevant and of value.

To help us deliver on vision and priorities, six strategies are employed - we advocate, facilitate, partner, fund, promote and monitor. Through these strategies, we work with our member Shires and other key partners to deliver our vision.

ADVOCATE

We are a key voice for the Kimberley and seek to influence funding and policy decisions for the betterment of our communities.

FACILITATE

We help to make regional goals possible by combining the strength of our member Shires to deliver outcomes.

PARTNER

We form strategic alliances where that alignment will help to deliver agreed regional outcomes.

FUND

We provide direct funding for key regional projects and research of common interest to Shires and seek third party grants.

PROMOTE

We provide coordinated information across the region for matters of high importance.

MONITOR

We monitor our region and our performance to inform decision making and highlight areas where greater focus is required

Strategic priorities

Strategic Priorities – next five years.

Pillars	People	Place	Prosperity	Performance
Our priorities	• Access to developable land • Affordable housing solutions • Safe communities • Health and Wellbeing	• Waste management • Emergency management and disaster resilience • Climate change responses • Access to government services	• Enabling Infrastructure • Sustainable job creation • Tourism • Land tenure reform • Workforce participation • Taxation reform	• Local government financial sustainability • Regional collaboration • Advocacy



Attachment 7: Draft Action Plan 2026-2027

REVISED DRAFT TWO**KRG ACTION PLAN
2026 - 2027****People**

Strategic Priorities	Objectives	Actions	Approach	Timing	KPIs	Status	Notes
Housing and access to developable land	Fit for purpose social and affordable housing, and worker accommodation to meet current and future needs	Develop a business case identifying priority developable Crown land suitable for transfer to Local Governments to enable affordable housing delivery - Identify land and cost / benefit to government of transfer for affordable housing	Fund Advocate	Sept 2026	Priority land parcels identified Cost-benefit analysis completed Business case submitted to State Government		
		Refine the Kimberley Housing Pipeline with 3 to 4 key projects with solid business cases and undertake advocacy for State and Federal government investment.	Fund Advocate	Sept 2026	Pipeline updated 3-4 investment-ready projects identified Business case submitted to State Government		
		Advocate for better management of social housing by the WA Department of Housing and Works	Advocate	Sept 2026 Ongoing	Advocacy position on social housing management endorsed; minimum 2 formal representations to WA Dept of Housing.		
		Advocate for increased State and Federal Government investment in urban renewal projects in the Kimberley, and to increase the number of social, affordable and GROH homes to meet current and projected population needs.	Advocate	Sept 2026	Advocacy position endorsed; formal submissions made to State and Federal government.		
		Advocate for changes to Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) treatment of employer-provided housing to support workforce attraction and home ownership in remote regions.	Advocate	Sept 2026 Ongoing	Advocacy strategy in line with Position Paper; minimum 1 formal submission or representation made to Federal Government		
		Develop advocacy strategy for the payment of Council rates by not-for-profit community housing providers.	Advocate	Sept 2026 Ongoing	Advocacy strategy in line with Position Paper: minimum 1 formal submission or representation made to		

					State Government		
		Review 2013 KRG Tender for Housing Supply with recommendations for development of a new tender	Monitor	July 2026	Tender reviewed and recommendations endorsed; recommendations inform development of updated KRG housing procurement approach by December 2026		
Safer Communities	Fit for purpose community safety and crime prevention initiatives to make Kimberley towns and communities safe	Review and update the KRG community safety and crime prevention package to reflect current priorities and funding requirements.	Advocate	Sept 2026	Strategy analysis completed with gap assessment of promised vs. actual spending; advocacy recommendations endorsed; formal representation made to relevant State Ministers.		
		Review the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy - What's promised / been spent / needed	Monitor	July 2026	Position paper on prisons and detention centres completed and endorsed; paper submitted to relevant State Ministers.		
		Develop a position on prisons and detention centres in the Kimberley	Monitor Advocate	Sept 2026	Position paper on support for travelling people and itinerant residents completed and endorsed; paper submitted to relevant Ministers		
Health and Wellbeing	Fit for purpose management of alcohol and drugs so all people and communities can thrive.	Develop a position on support required, such as crisis and short stay hostels, support to return home, for travelling people and itinerant residents in Kimberley towns	Monitor Advocate	Sept 2026	Position paper completed and endorsed. Information to inform pre-budget submission		
		Monitor the outcomes of liquor restrictions, the Banned Drinkers Register and other WA Government Kimberley alcohol and drug initiatives	Monitor Advocate	Dec 2026	Paper presented to KRG with data on outcomes of WA Government Kimberley alcohol and drug initiatives; at least 1		
					advocacy recommendation made to State Government based on findings; KRG position updated annually		

Place

Strategic Priorities	Objectives	Actions	Approach	Timing	KPIs	Status	Notes
Regional Waste Management	Fit for purpose waste management facilities in Kimberley towns	Review the Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan 2018-2023 and develop a practical way forward	Fund Advocate	May 2026	Project scope finalized and endorsed Draft regional waste strategy endorsed and submitted to relevant State agency.		
Emergency management	Appropriate funding and arrangements in place for emergency management on Aboriginal communities	Understand core issues and advocate for better emergency management arrangements for remote and town based Aboriginal communities	Advocate	Dec 2026	Advocacy strategy developed and implemented Better funding and management model for emergency management on remote communities		

Prosperity

Strategic Priorities	Objectives	Actions	Strategies	Timing	KPIS	Status	Notes
Enabling Infrastructure and services	Fit for purpose infrastructure and services to enable economic growth	Develop a paper identifying critical enabling infrastructure required to support economic development across the Kimberley, including regional transport infrastructure and service requirements	Advocate	Sept 2026	Infrastructure and services priorities paper completed and endorsed by KRG; paper submitted to State and Federal government		
		Develop and publish a Kimberley Investment Prospectus highlighting priority regional investment opportunities.	Advocate	Sept 2026	Investment Prospectus completed; distributed to at least 10 target agencies		
Tourism	A thriving and sustainable Kimberley tourism industry that drives regional economic growth	Monitor implementation of the Australia's North West Tourism Destination Management Plan and advocate for Kimberley-specific priorities and investment.	Monitor Advocate	Sept 2026	List of at least 5 priority Kimberley tourism infrastructure gaps identified and endorsed; formal advocacy submission made to Australia's North West Tourism body and Tourism WA and included in Budget Submission		
Land Tenure Reform	Reform of land tenure to drive economic opportunity.	Develop Land Tenure Reform Position Paper	Advocate	Dec 2026	Develop Land Tenure Reform Position Paper; formal advocacy submission made to the WA Government		

Performance

Strategic Priorities	Objectives	Actions	Approach	Timing	KPIs	Status	Notes
KRG Meetings	Well-functioning meetings	KRG Agenda Content WALGA Zone meeting input	Monitor	Ongoing	12 KRG meetings - Incl 4 in person meetings 8 WALGA Zone meetings Agenda circulated 7 days before meeting Average meeting attendance rate of 75% or above across member councils; quorum achieved at all 12 KRG meetings		
		CEO Ring Around meetings	Monitor	1 week prior to KRG meeting	12 meetings CEO attendance rate of 80% or above across 12 ring-around meetings Positive satisfaction rating from at least 75% of CEOs on meeting relevance and value		

Core advocacy documents	KRG is a key voice for the Kimberley influencing policy	KRG Strategic Plan	Promote Advocate	May 2026	Strategic Plan endorsed by KRG by June 2026; plan distributed to all member councils and key government stakeholders;		
		Maintain KRG Website	Promote Advocate	Quarterly	Website updated quarterly Advocacy documents publicly available		
		Maintain stakeholder list	Partner Monitor	Quarterly	Contact database maintained		
		Review position papers	Advocate	Annually	All position papers reviewed annually; updated papers endorsed by KRG within 60 days of review completion papers reviewed annually		
		Annual Report 2026	Promote	December	1 Report per year		
		Investment Prospectus 2026	Promote Advocate	September 2026	Investment Prospectus completed and distributed to at least 10 target bodies		
		Budget submission 2027/28	Promote Advocate	September 2026	1 state and 1 federal budget submission by submission		

					deadlines.		
		Submissions to government inquiries	Advocate	As required	Submission made to all relevant government inquiries within KRG's priority areas; submissions completed and lodged by inquiry deadlines		
		Develop Advocacy Positions for key Ministerial Portfolios with key points and key messages to share with Members	Advocate	Ongoing	Advocacy positions and key messages developed for at least 5 Ministerial portfolios; positions distributed to all KRG member council CEOs; updated within 30 days of Ministerial changes		
		Develop scope of works for progress of changes to FA Grants Advocacy for a change to the Financial Assistance Grant methodology	Fund Advocate	Ongoing	Project scope for FA Grants methodology review developed by March 2027; project completed and findings endorsed by KRG; formal advocacy submission lodged with Federal Government Advocacy strategy		

					for Financial Assistance Grant methodology change endorsed by KRG; formal submission made to relevant Federal review		
Regional collaboration	Enhanced performance	8 CEO meetings	Facilitate	Bi-monthly	Average attendance of all member council CEOs per meeting; at least 80% of agenda items result in documented action or resolution Quality of agenda items progressed based on attendee feedback		
		Monitor availability of appropriately skilled and experienced staff and opportunities for resource sharing	Monitor Facilitate	Ongoing	At least 2 resource sharing opportunities identified and formally progressed		
Networking and advocacy meetings	KRG is a key voice for the Kimberley influencing policy	Annual Perth Government Forums	Advocate	Annual	2 forums held with confirmed senior government speakers; average attendee satisfaction rating of 75% or above; at least 1 documented policy outcome or follow-		

					up action per forum Positive feedback		
		Facilitate KRG attendance at the annual Developing Northern Australia Conference	Advocate	Annual	Annual KRG attendance at DNAC secured at discounted rate; KRG presentation delivered at DNAC;		
		Canberra advocacy meetings	Facilitate Advocate	2 per year	Minimum 6 meetings held with government and opposition representatives; Quality of agenda items progressed based on attendee feedback		
		1 annual EA networking function	Facilitate	Annual	Minimum 4 attendees per networking function; Attendee satisfaction rating of 75% or above; at least 1 actionable follow-up or collaboration initiated		

9. Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031 - Project Scope of Works

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 8: Summary of Actions from the 2018-2023 Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan

Attachment 9: Draft Scope of Works Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031

Purpose

To agree on the progression of a Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan and Project Scope of Works.

In summary

- Regional Waste Management has been identified as a priority project for the KRG.
- The KRG endorsed a Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) 2018–2023, which was prepared by ASK Waste Management.
- This Plan contained a review of the KRG's 2013 Regional Waste Management Plan.
- The 2018-2023 RWMP was a substantial piece of work with key findings and recommendations, and their associated costs, for each year over the five years of the plan. The recommendations were at a Shire and regional level. A copy of the recommendations is attached
- It is recommended that the KRG develops a RWMP 2026-2031 which includes a review of the progress of the recommendations of the RWMP 2018–2023.
- A draft Scope of Works for this project is attached – note this was circulated to the CEOs for input, and their feedback has been incorporated into the Scope.

Background

- As above

Details

ASK Waste Management who developed the RWMP 2018–2023 are working with the Shire of Broome on the Broome Waste Strategy. Also, in 2024 they undertook a Concept Design and Cost for a Future Waste Facility for the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, and in 2025 they undertook a Hydrogeological Assessment Report for the Kununurra Waste Disposal Site.

ASK Waste Management were approached for an indicative cost of reviewing and updating the current plan. Their advice was based on strategies that they have done recently it would cost between \$80k - \$130k and take between 8 – 12 months. They advised that the main things that will impact on the cost are:

- Scope of Community consultation (online survey, workshops, pop-ups etc)
- Number of face to face or online meetings/workshops/presentations to Shire staff and/or Councillors

- Facility Assessment tour
- Production of a 'public facing' summary of the RWMP

Risk

Financial: Without a regional approach, opportunities for economies of scale, alignment of effort and cost savings may be missed, leading to higher costs for each Council

Innovation – Without a regional approach, the ability to explore innovative waste initiatives at scale may not be understood or realized.

Reputational: The lack of a regional strategy may signal a lack of commitment by the KRG to good environmental outcomes.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Between \$80-\$130K Note the KRG has a cash surplus position of \$371,151 as at 31 December 2025.	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG endorsed the Executive Team to work with the CEOs to stage the Scope of Works for the Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031 and bring back a revised scope of works to the next KRG meeting. Stage One will assess the status of current local government waste management plans and understand the key priorities for each Shire. Stage Two will build on this with a focus on regional waste management solutions.		Executive Team to Split the Scope of Works into two stages: 1. Stage One will assess the status of current local government waste management plans and understand the key priorities for each Shire. 2. Stage Two will build on this with a focus on regional waste management solutions. Executive Team to obtain input from the CEOs on the revised scope Executive Team to present the revised Scope of Works to the next KRG meeting	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	July 2026
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 8: Summary of Actions from the 2018-2023 Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan

Table 8.1 – Summary of five year actions and associated costs

Task Title	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Approximate cost per Shire
Data and Information						
Consistent waste data collection						
Waste data recording/classification system	X					\$5k - \$10k to develop and implement uniform system. Nil cost for ongoing data collection
Waste tonnage data						
Weighbridge	X					\$150,000 - \$175,000 installed
Mobile weigh cells	X					The cost of the mobile weigh cells is approximately \$15,000 for a single axle set (i.e. two pads). Each landfill site survey would require approximately 10 staff days.(set up, monitoring and collating the results)
Broome Kerbside waste audit		X				Kerbside waste audit \$15k - \$20k, analysis and recommendation report \$10k - \$15k
Financial data						
Whole of life (WOL) financial assessment	X					Completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff, or via a consultant costing \$5k - \$10k per facility
Gate fees structure & waste reserves	X					Process can be completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff to develop fee structure
Community opinion						
Community Survey	X					\$15k - \$20k to develop survey and analyse the responses. Internal staff time to send and collect surveys
Infrastructure Planning						
Liquid waste Broome (septage + greasetrap)						
Siting and construction of new facility	X	X				\$1M (Tails, 2018)
Liquid waste SHC						
Upgrading liquid waste facility Halls Creek					X	\$200k - \$500k Dependent on treatment process and capacity of facility
Solid waste Broome						
Siting and construction New Regional Resource Recovery Park (RRRP)	X	X	X			RRRP: \$10M (source Tails, 2018)
Identify alternative disposal solution for waste disposal whilst RRRP being constructed.	X					Process can be completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff, or via a consultant (\$5k - \$10k).
Maximise the operational life of the Buckley Rd landfill	X					Consultant \$20k - \$30k, however, any gains in operational life would offset this cost by avoiding the transport of waste to an alternative landfill.
Construction of Community Recycling Centre (CRC) in Broome when Buckley Rd landfill closed.			X	X		Broome CRC: \$2.26M (source Tails, 2018)
Solid waste SDWK						
Determine the remaining operational life at Derby	X					Site survey: \$5k Interpretation of survey can be completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff, or via a consultant (\$5k).
New site Identification if under 10 years life		X	X	X	X	New site Identification, assessment and approvals: significant Shire staff input plus \$200k - \$500k consultancy and application fees.
Solid waste SHC						
Determine the remaining operational life at the Halls Creek landfill	X					Test pits can be completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff and plant. Site survey: \$5k Review of LCMP: \$10k
New site Identification if under 10 years life		X	X	X	X	New site Identification, assessment and approvals: significant Shire staff input plus \$200k - \$500k consultancy and application fees.
Installation of equipment to weigh the loads of waste	X					The assessment of weighing systems can be completed in-house by Shire staff or out sourced. Weighing systems range from \$15k - \$175k.
Solid waste SWEK						
Summary data to support the Licence renewal application	X					Review of data, summary production and licence application: \$10k - \$20k
Establishment additional bores and monitoring at new landfill site		X	X	X	X	\$15k - \$50k depending upon depth and number of bores plus increased groundwater monitoring costs

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Task Title	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Approximate cost per Shire
Determine and establish the preferred option for waste management at Wyndham	X	X				Community consultation and survey: can be completed in-house or outsourced to a consultant (\$20 - \$30k) Assessment of options: can be completed in-house or outsourced to a consultant (\$10k - \$20k) Establishment of infrastructure: cost determined in assessment, est. \$200k - \$1M
Strategic Planning						
Emergency waste management planning	X					Completed in-house by Shire staff or outsourced to a consultant (\$15k - \$20k).
Cost modelling MSUP		X				External consultant \$20k - \$60k depending on scope of project and number of communities
Strategic Community Plans	X	X	X	X	X	Internal staff time
Waste Strategy 2030		X				Internal staff time
Broome Waste Management Strategy	X					External Consultant \$25k - \$35k
Regional Collaboration						
Regional cooperation - Waste TAG meetings	X	X	X	X	X	Internal Shire resources and the additional time spent preparing, disseminating information and holding additional meetings.
Regional procurement	X	X	X	X	X	Initial costs would relate to internal administration and liaison via the TAG group.
Regional waste awareness						
Waste education program	X	X	X	X	X	Dependent on method funding and scope of program. Regional education may require a full time role and would need to produce educational material, etc. Thus, the task could cost \$100k - \$200k per year.
Individual Shire Waste Education Strategy (if required, Broome as indicated a need)		X				Internal staff time
Waste Minimisation						
Drivers for resource recovery and decision making						
Detailed supply chain and market assessment		X				Process can be completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff to complete the assessment and analysis. Alternatively using a specialist consultant, \$15k - \$30k per material stream to analyse the data and complete a market assessment. Potential to attract Waste Authority funding.
Gate fee pricing structure		X				Process can be completed in-house, so costs relate to time required by staff to develop fee structure.
Markets for recovered materials		X				Nil, as the recycled materials produced would be cost competitive with 'virgin' or imported materials.
Transport logistics		X				Internal cost to complete assessment of transport options.
Concrete, brick, tiles						
Assess the viability of concrete and brick recycling in the region		X				Could be undertaken by Waste TAG/KRG or an external consultant. Viability assessment: \$15k - \$30k Concrete and brick crushing project: yet to be determined
Introduction of Waste Management Plans (WMP) as part of building approvals process		X				Staff time to review WMP's and liaise with local building / demolition industry.
Greenwaste						
Assessment and development of regional solution			X			The assessment would take 15 - 25 staff days, or if outsourced to a consultant \$20k - \$30k (depending upon availability of data and complexity of options).
Food and garden organics (FO-GO)						
Assess the viability of FO-GO recycling in the region				X		Could be undertaken by Waste TAG/KRG or an external consultant. Viability assessment: \$25k - \$40k
Glass						
Assess the viability of glass recycling in the region and the likely diversion of glass when CDS is introduced	X				X	
Metals						
Establish a regional approach to scrap metal collection	X					Internal staff time
Tyres						
Investigate possible solutions to process or recycle tyres in the most cost effective manner	X					10-15 days of staff time or \$15k - \$20k if outsourced to a consultant.
Low volume - highly polluting wastes						

Task Title	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Approximate cost per Shire
Assess solutions to reduce the volume of LVHP waste being disposed of to landfill				X		Assessment of options: in-house staff time or \$15k - \$20k if outsourced to a consultant. Cost of collection / diversion options: yet to be defined but target funded schemes.
Lobby the Waste Authority to extend their funded HHW collection scheme to regional areas.	X	X	X	X	X	Internal staff time or alternatively through the KRG.
Determine if the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS) can provide a collection service for the region.	X					Internal staff time or alternatively through the KRG.

Attachment 9: Draft Scope of Works Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031

Draft Scope of Works Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031			
Element	Detail		
Project name	Kimberley Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031		
Purpose	To recommend strategies and practical actions to strengthen local and regional collaboration in the delivery of contemporary waste management services, consistent with State and Federal government waste strategies. The plan will support the development of funding submissions by Councils for improved waste management outcomes.		
Tasks	The key tasks of this project are : - Review of the KRG Regional Waste Management Plan 2018-2023 and the status of actions - Assess the current waste management infrastructure and practices in each Shire - Identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities in current waste management practices - Develop a five-year Regional Waste Management Plan based on evidence and engagement with each Shire and key stakeholders - Provide clear findings and actionable recommendations for improved local and regional waste management - Ensure recommendations are aligned with current and emerging State and Commonwealth waste management policies and strategies and are fit for purpose for regional-specific factors including remoteness, climate, scale and population distribution		
Key strategic elements	- Waste avoidance and minimization - Resource recovery and recycling - Circular economy initiatives - Infrastructure requirements – short and long term - Collection and transport systems - Waste treatment and disposal options - Hazardous and special waste management - Illegal dumping prevention and remediation - Community education and behaviour change - Partnerships and collaborative opportunities - Climate change adaptation and mitigation - Funding and financial sustainability		
Project lead	Executive officer		
Project support	KRG Secretariat		
Time allocation	Local Governments	Executive Team	Contractor
	49 hours (7 days) per Shire over project life	30	TBA – 50 to 70 hours subject to scope
		Core hours	
Time Frame	4 to 6 months		
Methodology	Step 1. Review Existing Waste Management Plan - Review the current Kimberley Regional Groups Regional Waste Management Plan - Assess implementation against plan objectives and targets - Evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and actions in partnership with each Shire and the KRG.		
	Step 2. Current State Analysis - Review relevant supporting documentation, reports, and studies - Audit of existing waste management infrastructure - Analyse waste generation data, including waste types, volumes, and trends - Review waste collection, transport, processing, and disposal practices - Assess recycling and resource recovery programs - Evaluate community engagement and education initiatives - Review cost for waste management services		

Draft Scope of Works Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031	
Element	Detail
	Step 3. Regulatory Review - Review Western Australian and Commonwealth waste management legislation and policies - Assess compliance with regulatory requirements - Identify any emerging regulatory changes or requirements relevant to the Kimberley, including new and emerging technologies Step 4. Stakeholder engagement - Develop stakeholder list - Engage with each Shire (either in person or online and in a format agreed to by each Shire i.e. workshop, meeting) to inform the report. - Undertake a workshop with the Kimberley Regional Group (either in person or online) to inform the report. - Undertake interviews /surveys to gather information with identified stakeholders - Document feedback, concerns, and recommendations - Identify shared priorities and areas of concern and consensus. Step 5. Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment - Identify gaps between current waste management practices and best practice, including viable technologies that may be more cost effective than traditional landfill options for Kimberley Councils and meets government requirements - Assess infrastructure deficiencies and capacity constraints - Analyse barriers to effective waste management at a local and regional level - Evaluate opportunities for improvement, resource sharing and investment Step 6 Workshop – Kimberley Regional Group - Undertake a final workshop with the Kimberley Regional Group to present and obtain input into the draft report.
Project Deliverables	Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031 The Regional Waste Management Plan 2026-2031 should include - Executive summary - Regional context and background - Vision, goals, and objectives for regional waste management - Current state assessment findings - Waste generation projections and forecasts - Strategic priorities and focus areas, including the use of new and emerging technologies that meet government requirements - Detailed action plan with specific initiatives, timeframes, and responsibilities - Performance indicators and monitoring framework - Implementation roadmap - Review and evaluation mechanisms Note that the findings and recommendations must - Document clear, evidence-based findings from the review and analysis - Develop specific, actionable recommendations for each priority area - Prioritize recommendations based on impact, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness - Include short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5+ years) recommendations - Link recommendations to measurable outcomes and performance indicators

10. KRG Housing Projects

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 10: Scope of Works Consolidated Business Case Local Government Housing Projects

Attachment 11: Scope of Works Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development

Purpose

To endorse two business cases.

In summary

- In 2024 the KRG developed a Kimberley Housing Pipeline, which was a list of local government and non-government housing projects, in response to a request from Housing Australia who were interested in exploring the Kimberley as a pilot for a new approach to delivering housing at scale.
- Leadership changes at Housing Australia, and a new Federal Housing Minister, resulted in the proposed pilot approach not proceeding.
- Housing was a key issue at the KRG Strategy Workshop – the draft Action Plan 2026-27 outlines a number of strategies and actions to address housing issues across the Kimberley
- The supply of new homes is central to WA and Federal government budgets
- The CEOs met to discuss the Kimberley housing pipeline, and based on their input A new approach is presented for the KRG to advocate for and to facilitate new housing supply
 - 1. A focus on local government access to developable land for housing development
 - 2. A recasting of the KRG housing pipeline to local government housing projects that have a Business Case. These projects will be aggregated into a KRG Housing document enabling the KRG to support Councils advocate for these projects.
- Attached are a Scope of Works for these projects for discussion
- These were circulated to the CEOs for input, along with a request for information on each Council's priority housing projects.

Background

As above

Details

As per the attached Scope of Works

- Consolidated Business Case Local Government Housing Projects
- Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development

Risk

Reputational: KRG efficiency and advocacy weakened without a strategic and aligned focus

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor	\$60-\$80K – Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development \$30K – Consolidated Business Case Local Government Housing Projects Note the KRG has a cash surplus position of \$371,151 as at 31 December 2025.	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG: 1. Endorsed the Scope of Works for the Consolidated Business Case Local Government Housing Projects and 2. Deferred the Scope of Works for the Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development		Executive Team to progress the consolidated Business Case Local Government housing projects	
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	September 2026
Carried:	3/0		

Attachment 10: Scope of Works Consolidated Business Case Local Government Housing Projects

Draft Scope of Works – Consolidated Business Case Local Government Housing Projects			
Element	Detail		
Project name	To develop a consolidated Business Case of Kimberley Local Government Housing Projects		
Purpose	To refine the Kimberley Housing Pipeline with 3-4 key local government shovel ready projects, and develop a Consolidated Business Case that are investment ready to inform housing advocacy and the KRG 2027/28 budget submission		
Tasks	The key tasks are to liaise with each Shire for a list of shovel-ready Shire housing projects, develop a project implementation schedule and consolidate the projects into a single KRG business case		
Key strategic elements	• Identification by each Shire of priority housing projects with business cases • Consolidate projects into a KRG document • Develop a project implementation schedule • Identify any economies of scale through joint procurement of project components • Provide compelling case for investment in line with housing data and government housing policy priorities. • Develop a Consolidated Housing Business Case • Develop an advocacy plan		
Project lead	Executive Officer		
Project support	KRG Secretariat		
Time allocation	Local Governments	Executive Team	Contractor
	49 hours (7 days) per Shire over project life	30	TBA
		Core hours	
Indicative Budget	30K		
Time Frame	To be completed by September 2026 to inform budget submission to the WA Government		
Methodology	Components	Outcome	Process
	Identify shovel ready projects underpinned by business cases in each Shire	• Priority projects identified for each Shire	• Each Shire provides the Executive with business cases
	Consolidate agreed projects into a KRG Housing Business Case	• Housing Business Case	• Consolidate projects into one document • Provide compelling case for investment in line with housing data and government housing policy priorities.
	Develop an advocacy plan	• Advocacy Plan	• Map out key stakeholders, their impact and influence, key messages and proof points and advocacy schedule.
Project Deliverables	The KRG Business Case should include • Executive summary • Regional context and background • Vision, goals, and objectives • Current and projected unmet need and housing demand • List of projects and overall implementation schedule and project cost • Alignment with government policy and strategy • Individual project summaries • Opportunities for joint procurement to deliver economies of scale		

Attachment 11: Scope of Works Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development

Draft Scope of Works – Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development			
Element	Detail		
Project name	Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development		
Purpose	To develop a Business Case for the transfer of Crown Land to local government for residential land supply by September for the KRG to present to the WA Government for the 2027/28 budget. The Business Case will focus on the towns of Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham. It will not include remote Aboriginal communities.		
Tasks	The key tasks of this project are : 1. Identify what parcels of land have been identified by each Shire for the transfer of Crown Land to the Shire for residential housing 2. For Shire's that have not identified parcels of land- • Identify and map Crown land parcels within townsites that are potentially suitable for affordable residential housing development, referencing studies that may have been done by the Shires or WA Government • Assess the development potential of each parcel, including estimated residential yield number and type of dwellings and infrastructure servicing requirements. 3. Identify legal, planning, tenure, and infrastructure constraints and pathways for transfer and development and potential time-frames 4. Develop a prioritised, shire-by-shire implementation strategy for land transfer. 5. Identify the WA Government's intent for each land parcel – i.e. forward capital works plans 6. Identify funding and financing options for the construction of housing on the identified land parcels 7. Quantify the cost and-benefits to local government and the WA Government of transferring identified parcels to Local Government for housing 8. Identify Risks The Business Case will be based on current and projected unmet housing need, including appropriate housing typologies to address unmet need. It will consider current and planned housing development projects in each Shire.		
Key strategic elements	• Identification of Crown land parcels, potential yield and Infrastructure and servicing requirements and costs • Identification of WA Government intent for identified land parcels • Costs and benefits of a land transfer to local and State government • Partnerships and collaborative opportunities • Funding and financial modelling • Tenure pathways and timeframes • Risk analysis		
Project lead	Executive Officer		
Project support	KRG Secretariat		
Time allocation	Local Governments	Executive Team	Contractor
	49 hours (7 days) per <u>Shire</u> over project life	30	TBA
		Core hours	
Indicative Budget	\$60- \$80K		
Time Frame	To be completed by September 2026 to inform budget submission to the WA Government		

Draft Scope of Works – Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development			
Element	Detail		
Methodology	Components	Outcome	Process
	Identify priority developable Crown land suitable for transfer to local government for residential housing delivery	- Priority land parcels identified - Spatial register of land identified and shortlisted	- Identify which Councils have business cases in place - Work with Councils that do not have a business case to identify potential parcels of land and understand constraints on each parcel - Develop an overall map that outlines Crown land opportunities
	Site suitability assessment	- Planning or other constraints - Infrastructure servicing requirements and costs (i.e. servicing the lots, roads etc) - Review Government plans for development of the sites	- Development potential of each agreed parcel - Infrastructure assessment - Multi-criteria analysis to prioritise land (if required)
	Yield assessment and housing needs analysis	- Yield analysis vis a vis housing demand data - Number and types of dwellings aligned with demand data	- Review housing demand data for each town - Analysis of the yield and types of dwellings in line with housing demand analysis
	Stakeholder engagement	- Key stakeholders identified and engaged - Risks and opportunities identified from a stakeholder perspective	- Stakeholder list developed - Engagement undertaken
	Funding model/s	- Funding model/s to deliver the homes including - Governance and preferred delivery model	Assess a range of housing delivery models for each land parcel (i.e. direct local government, partnership, joint venture) and procurement models
	Implementation pathway	The planning and tenure actions required to enable each priority parcel to progress to development and indicative time-frames	Identify pathways for land transfer – i.e. management order, freehold grant or lease arrangement and approval process
	Cost – benefit analysis	Costs and benefits to the government of the land transfer	Undertake a cost-benefit analysis to quantify the value proposition for the State Government of transferring identified parcels to Local Government.
	Project Risk	Project risk understood and mitigated	Identify project risks and mitigation strategies
	Business Case	Business Case produced	Information synthesise into a Business Case
Project Deliverables	Business Case for the Transfer of Crown Land to local government for housing development The Business Case should include - Executive summary - Regional context and background - Vision, goals, and objectives - Current and projected unmet need and housing demand analysis by housing typology - Spatial maps and of crown land suitable for transfer, yield and infrastructure and servicing requirements - Funding and financing models to deliver the homes - Implementation pathway - Cost benefit analysis		
	- Risk analysis - Recommendations - Presentation deck		

11. Timber Creek Native Title Determination and Davey Decision

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide information on the Timber Creek Native Title decision and its relevance to the Kimberley.

In summary

- An outcome of meetings held in Canberra was that the Executive Officer was to review the Timber Creek Native Title decision and its relevance to the Kimberley and the effect on the KRG members.
- The Timber Creek (2019)¹ and Davey (2026)² decisions transformed native title - *Timber Creek* established that "spiritual hurt" is compensable, and Davey (2026) showed this is uncapped and scalable.
- The Timber Creek compensation case, known officially as the Griffiths Case, is the first time the High Court assessed compensation for the extinguishment of native title rights and interests under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).
- On 27 February 2026, the Federal Court handed down the *Davey* decision, ordering the Northern Territory Government to pay over \$54.7 million to the Gudanji, Yanyuwa and Yanyuwa-Marra Traditional Owners as compensation for economic, cultural and spiritual losses suffered due to the expansion of McArthur River Mine³.
- This decision is only the second instance of a superior court quantifying Native Title compensation, and the first to apply the framework established by the High Court in *Timber Creek*⁴.
- *Davey* is seen as a landmark decision for native title compensation in Australia, with significant implications for Native Title holders, governments and private industry.
- The decision has established a legal precedent for valuing compensation, particularly recognizing cultural and spiritual loss (solatium) alongside economic loss for native title extinguishment.

Background

- Native Title is a bundle of rights held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to land and waters according to their traditional law and customs.⁵
- Native Title rights were first recognized in the *Mabo (No 2)* decision which the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA) now legislates.

¹ <https://www.hcourt.gov.au/cases-and-judgments/cases/decided/case-d12018>

² <https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en-au/knowledge/publications/a9f72544/native-title-compensation-and-cultural-loss-significance-of-the-davey-decision>

³ *Davey on behalf of the Gudanji, Yanyuwa and Yanyuwa-Marra Peoples v Northern Territory of Australia (No 5) (McArthur River Project Compensation Claim)* [2026] FCA 1

⁴ *Northern Territory of Australia v Griffiths* [2017] FCAFC 106

⁵ *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), s 223(1)

- Where an act, such as a grant of freehold land or the construction of public works, extinguishes or is otherwise inconsistent with Native Title rights and interests, it constitutes a "compensable act" under the NTA, giving rise to that compensatory entitlement.⁶

Details

The Timber Creek case tested:

- the criteria for assessing compensation following extinguishment of native title by compulsory acquisition of land under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth); and
- the scope of 'just terms' compensation provided under the Act.
- In August 2016, the Federal Court awarded approximately \$3.3 million in compensation to the Ngaliwurru and Nungali peoples - compensation was made up of spiritual loss (\$1.3 million), economic loss (calculated at eighty per cent of the freehold value of the affected land) and simple interest on the sum awarded for economic loss.
- On appeal in 2019 the High Court reduced the amount of economic loss from 65 per cent to 50 per cent of the freehold value of the affected land. The High Court agreed that \$1.3 million for cultural loss was reasonable and the total amount of compensation awarded was reduced to approximately \$2.5 million.
- Unlike *Timber Creek*, the compensation claim in the Davey case was not brought under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA), but under the *McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act 1992* (NT). The Court nevertheless applied the *Timber Creek* principles by analogy, holding that the purpose and objects of both statutes are "so closely aligned" that a different methodology would be inappropriate⁷ .⁸
- The \$54 million awarded for cultural and spiritual loss in *Davey* is significantly more than the High Court's award of \$1.3 million for the same category of loss in *Timber Creek*, recognising the scale of non-economic harm suffered by the Traditional Owners.
- The Court found that the following amounted to 'acquisitions of property' and were therefore compensable acts under section 4B of the Project Act as they were inconsistent with the exercise of native title rights:
 - six mineral leases, a pipeline licence (covering a total area of 110 hectares), and the construction of a road (covering a total area of 244 hectares)
 - the grant of pre-1996 non-pastoral use permits under the Pastoral Land Act.
- The Court was not satisfied that the following were a compensable acquisition:
 - the statutory validation of mining activities under section 4AB of the Project Act, as the provision did not confer additional proprietary rights beyond those already granted
 - the grant of post-1996 non-pastoral use permits and a mineral lease as these were not the subject of a valid notice of compensation issued by the Claim Group.
- The *Davey* decision builds on the compensation principles established in *Timber Creek*, but applies them in a larger-scale mining context. It recognises that native title compensation must account for intangible losses, including grief, distress, and the disruption to cultural responsibilities causing profound cultural and spiritual harm.
- In her findings Justice Banks-Smith found that the impact of the compensable acts was "not confined to the area or areas covered by particular or individual compensable acts" but must "be

⁶ *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), ss 22, 226, & 227

⁷ Details have been taken from analysis of the case by Norton Rose Fulbright

<https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en-au/knowledge/publications/a9f72544/native-title-compensation-and-cultural-loss-significance-of-the-davey-decision>

⁸ *Davey*, [558]

understood in a wider setting informed by the laws and customs, and cultural beliefs and practices, of the native title holders⁹.

- A feature of *Davey* was the treatment of the ILUA executed between the Claim Group and McArthur River Mining - The Court found that certain benefits in the ILUA but rejected the Northern Territory's submission that the ILUA amounted to "consent" to the mine or a "complete answer" to cultural loss¹⁰.
- Davey affirmed the *Timber Creek* economic loss methodology, applying the principle that the economic value of affected Native Title land is determined by reference to its freehold value, discounted to reflect the limited nature of the specific Native Title rights held.

Implications of the decision

The Timber Creek and Davey decisions provide a framework for future claims. The following have been identified by Norton Rose Fulbright lawyers as the implications of this decision -

- Impairment, not just extinguishment of native title rights and interests, can give rise to compensation where the impact of the acts is effectively permanent
- NTA compensation principles can apply beyond the Native Title Act even where compensation arises under project specific legislation. The application of *Timber Creek* principles to a claim under project-specific legislation broadens the reach of those principles
- Assessment of economic loss continues to be guided by the Timber Creek decision, with the freehold value as the key benchmark - economic loss based on 50% of freehold value for non-exclusive rights
- Compensation for cultural loss is uncapped and scalable - The decision confirms that the statutory cap on compensation linked to freehold value (s 51A of the NTA) does not limit the cultural loss award, and that awards in the tens of millions of dollars are within the permissible range where the impact on connection to country is severe.
- *Davey* affirms the compensatory principles of *Timber Creek*, the bifurcated approach, freehold-value benchmark for economic loss, and the community-standards test for cultural loss.
- ILUAs and third-party benefits may reduce, but not eliminate, liability – increasing the leverage of Native Title holders in negotiating Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs)

Risk

Reputational: Regional economic development

⁹ *Davey*, [943]

¹⁰ *Ibid*, [1566]

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 discussed the implications of the Timber Creek and Davey decisions on local government and regional economic development.			
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		

12. WA State Budget 2026/27

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 12: Cook Labor Government delivering for the Kimberley Media Release

Purpose

To provide an overview of the WA State budget 2026/27 with a focus on Kimberley and housing initiatives

In summary

- The WA Government handed down the 2026/27 State Budget on the 7th December
- Broome has been identified as one of seven regional cities to drive new economic opportunities across Western Australia
- A copy of the WA Government's Kimberley media release is attached.
- The KRG did not submit a pre-budget submission to the 2027/27 State budget against which to assess budget announcements
- An advocacy win for the KRG with the Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme (HOSS0 to be amended to encourage government workers in regional WA to purchase homes in the communities they work in.

Background

As above

Details

The budget includes a number of cost-of-living measures, and state-wide initiatives that will support infrastructure and services across metropolitan and regional WA. Specific Kimberley initiatives include –

Housing

- Kimberley housing pipeline: 179 GROH, 240 social/affordable, 898 land supply lots in East & West Kimberley¹¹
- 54 new GROW dwellings in Broome as part of the Seven Cities 500 New Build program¹²
- \$40.7 million to boost residential land supply in the Kimberley, with 111 new lots to be developed at Broome North.

¹¹ <https://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/2026-27/housing.html>

¹² <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Seven-Cities-to-deliver-new-homes-for-Broome-20260428>

Justice

- \$41 million to extend the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, targeted at reducing youth crime and supporting at-risk youth in the Kimberley;

Health

- \$16.2 million additional investment in the Broome Renal Hostel

Transport

- \$14.2 million to support and expand bus services in Broome;
- \$3.8 million to support continued operation of the Inter-Regional Flight Network, including for flights to and from Broome
- \$83.2 million, jointly funded with the Commonwealth, to deliver Stage 1 of the Great Northern Highway Fitzroy to Gogo flood resilience works;
- \$2.7M Associated grant expenditure to Main Roads WA towards the Kalumburu airstrip upgrade for Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation.
- \$100 million to be spent through the Regional Airfare Zone Cap scheme over the forward estimates.

Note -

- No funding in the Kimberley Ports Authority Budget for First Point of Entry in 2026/27 (2025/26 estimated expenditure was \$10.5M)
- \$750K allocated in 2026/27 and \$750K in 2027/28 budget for Barge landing upgrades at the Port of Derby¹³

Tourism

- \$24.6 million to support the 2028 Kimberley Total Solar Eclipse. Works are for upgrades to camping sites, water and wastewater facilities in Kununurra, and regional telecommunications capacity, and a proposed public viewing site along the Great Northern Highway within the line of totality¹⁴.
 - Note an Eclipse Project Management Office will be established within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Department is recruiting for 5 full time fixed term time roles – A Director, Program Manager Project Manager and Project Officer
- \$5 million to support the Garaan-ngaddim Horizontal Falls tourism transition project.

Education

- \$2.4 million for the Aboriginal Pastoral Program in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions
- \$6.5 million for delivery of the Kimberley Schools Project in the 2027 school year;

Energy

¹³ Kimberley Ports Authority Budget located at <https://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/agency-details.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Budget-set-to-shine-a-light-on-spectacular-eclipse-in-the-Kimberley-20260510>

- The West Kimberley Power Purchase Agreement extended to January 2031 for power reliability in the region
- \$720,000 to progress the replacement of Bidyadanga's diesel generation asset and future community-led renewable generation¹⁵.

Primary Industries and Regional Development

Regional Economic Development REDs Grants - The budget allocation estimated to be \$8.4 million in 2025-26. This decreases to \$7 million in 2026-27. Funding is projected to decrease to \$5.3 million in 2027-28 and continue decreasing to \$5 million in 2028-29 and 2029-30¹⁶.

Kununurra Cotton Gin Infrastructure Support - \$700M in 2026/27

State-wide Housing and Property Development Overview

The following is an overview of the budget for housing and property development¹⁷.

Land Supply and Enabling Infrastructure

- \$1.3B for land development including water, power and civil works
- \$686M to DevelopmentWA for new residential lots and station precincts
- \$113M industrial land development (Karratha, Newman LIA, Rockingham, Neerabup)
- \$40M boost to Infrastructure Development Fund (10,000+ homes statewide)

Note

- The Shire of Halls Creek has been allocated \$11.7 million, jointly funded by State and Federal Governments, will expand the town's bore field by equipping four new production bores and connecting them via approximately three kilometres of pipeline¹⁸.
- Underutilised Crown Land in the Shire of Halls Creek is being repurposed for social, affordable and/or service worker housing

Social and Affordable Housing

- \$1.5B new investment, 5,000+ social and affordable homes by 2029
- \$1B+ via Housing Australia Future Fund, 1,426 new social and affordable dwellings
- \$452M for 165 new dwellings, 215 refurbishments, land acquisition for future social housing builds and increase investment in maintenance

Regional Housing and Seven Cities

- \$419M Seven Cities, 500+ key worker homes (incl. \$170M from Rio, BHP, Hancock)
- \$184.4M revamped Shared Equity Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme for GROH tenants
- 200+ additional GROH homes via expanded GROH Investor Program
- \$50M boost to Regional Housing Support Fund (to \$75M total)
- \$116M for Broome North (111 lots) and South Hedland Western Edge (121 lots)

¹⁵ <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Budget-delivers-better-outcomes-for-Aboriginal-people,-communities-20260507>

¹⁶ <https://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/2026-27/budget-papers/bp2/2026-27-wa-state-budget-bp2-part4.pdf> p 233

¹⁷ <https://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/2026-27/housing.html>

¹⁸ [https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Joint-media-statement---\\$11.7-million-investment-to-bolster-Halls-Creek-water-security-20260513](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Joint-media-statement---$11.7-million-investment-to-bolster-Halls-Creek-water-security-20260513)

Construction, First Home Buyers and Partnership Finance

- \$297M stamp duty package + \$22,500 max saving for first home buyers (~6,000 per year)
- \$250M Keystart Pre-Sale Guarantee for apartment projects with 30%+ affordable dwellings
- \$250M Commonwealth First Home Buyer Commercial Financing Facility (joint with State)
- \$48M for two Housing & Infrastructure Advanced Manufacturing Facilities (Kwinana & Neerabup), boosting modular delivery state-wide
- \$51M construction workforce package: GTO wage subsidies, Construction Visa Subsidy, free or low-fee TAFE

Note

- Wait times for public housing - 2026/27 applications housed projected at an average of 185 weeks – up from 173 weeks in 2025/26. The median weeks is projected to increase from 135 weeks in 2025/26 to 139 weeks in 2026/27.

Aboriginal communities¹⁹

- \$81.7 million for housing investment in remote Aboriginal communities;
- \$24 million for the Remote Communities Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project;
- \$11 million to enable the replacement of vehicles, plant, machinery, and equipment for Municipal Services;
- \$10 million to deliver electricity services
- \$10.1 million for the WA Closing the Gap 2026-28 Implementation Plan to deliver five initiatives targeted at driving delivery of the Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- \$1.1 million from the Commonwealth's Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program,

Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

- An increase in operating funding for the Local Government Inspector function (new funding of approximately \$660,000 annually)
- \$16.5 million for an Organisational Efficiency and Alignment Review for the broader Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety.
- \$3.321M has been allocated in 2026/27 for the Banned Drinkers register. There was no funding for the register in 2025/26²⁰.

Seven Cities

The Premier's Regional WA Media provides further information to support his Seven Cities vision for regional WA.

Regional WA has been central to the economic success of the State for generations and building strong regional cities in Western Australia is vital to unlock the next wave of opportunities. Seven regional cities will drive delivery of new economic opportunities across the State. In particular, the development of large-scale renewables will mean we can make more things here, export embedded renewable energy in WA products and realise opportunities in space, data centres and AI processing. The seven cities are Karratha, Port Hedland, Broome, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

¹⁹ <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook%20Labor%20Government/Budget-delivers-better-outcomes-for-Aboriginal-people,-communities-20260507>

²⁰ <https://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au/agency-details.html>

These cities must be ready to seize these new economic opportunities, which requires housing, infrastructure and services to support growth, so they can attract and retain families and skilled workers. They must also be capable of servicing surrounding communities and industries, which is what this Budget will deliver with housing a key priority.

The Premier outlined his vision for Broome as one of the seven cities²¹.

Regional cities like Broome have been central to Western Australia becoming the strongest economy in the nation and will be critical to our future economic success.

While traditional industries like mining will continue to thrive, Broome will be front-and-centre to my government's vision and becoming a renewable energy powerhouse and making more things here.

To seize the big job-creating projects in front of us in Broome, we need to continue to invest in economic infrastructure and expand their roles as hubs providing quality services to the towns and remote communities in the Kimberley.

My Seven Cities vision starts with housing and ensuring Broome has the frontline workers needed to deliver quality public services.

WALGA

WALGA has noted that for Local Governments, there were a number of key points to note from the Budget²²:

- continued commitment to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF), with \$12 million allocated across the Budget and forward estimates
- an additional \$4.8 million to manage the impact of the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), including support for the Transition to Management Response Plan and tree treatment activities
- the commitment to the Regional Road Safety Program (Local Roads) has been maintained,
- \$17.8 million over 2026–27 to 2028–29 for the WA Circular Economy grants program to boost recycling capability and market development for emerging waste streams
- a slowdown in the Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP) to allow Western Power to prioritise investment in infrastructure needed to support new housing developments.
- \$39.5 million of the \$90.2 million income from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy to the Waste Strategy delivery.

Risk

Nil

²¹ Op cit

²² <https://walga.asn.au/policy-and-advocacy/state-and-federal-budgets/state-budget-2026-27>

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 discussed the outcomes of the WA Budget 2026/27 for the Kimberley region.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		

Cook Labor Government delivering for the Kimberley

The Cook Labor Government is delivering for the Kimberley region in the 2026-27 State Budget through investments in health, housing and jobs for the region, while providing significant cost-of-living relief for families.

- Budget delivers real cost-of-living relief and housing in the Kimberley region
- Investments to support Broome drive future economic opportunities
- Cook Labor Government to invest \$9.5 billion in infrastructure throughout regional Western Australia over the next four years
- More than \$4 billion delivered through Royalties for Regions Program
- Budget includes an additional investment of \$16.2 million in the Broome Renal Hostel
- Cook Government committed to delivering jobs, health, education, creating safe and inclusive communities and protecting and restoring WA's environment

The Cook Labor Government is delivering for the Kimberley region in the 2026-27 State Budget through investments in health, housing and jobs for the region, while providing significant cost-of-living relief for families.

Regional WA has been central to the economic success of the State for generations and building strong regional cities in Western Australia is vital to unlock the next wave of opportunities.

Seven regional cities, including Broome, will drive delivery of new economic opportunities across the State. In particular, the development of large-scale renewables will mean we can make more things here, export embedded renewable energy in WA products and realise opportunities in space, data centres and emerging technologies including AI. The seven cities are Broome, Karratha, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

Broome must be ready to seize these new economic opportunities, which requires housing, infrastructure and services to support growth, so it can attract and retain families and skilled workers.

It must also be capable of servicing surrounding communities and industries, which is what this Budget will deliver with housing a key priority.

The following initiatives will help unlock and deliver more land supply, build new homes and help first home buyers get into the market in Broome and throughout the Kimberley:

- \$1.6 billion for the construction and refurbishment of more than 1,800 social and affordable dwellings, 500 homes for first home buyers, land acquisition and maintenance;
- participation in the Commonwealth's 100,000 Homes for First Home Buyers Program, supporting the delivery of 11,000 dwellings over eight years reserved exclusively for first home buyers;

- \$419 million for more than 500 GROH and key government worker dwellings through the Seven Cities New Build program, including new houses, expansion of the GROH Investor Program, and establishment of a revamped Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme including shared equity options;
- \$250 million Keystart Pre-sale Guarantee and \$250 million First Home Buyer Commercial Financing Facility to help developers meet pre-sale thresholds and support more apartment and affordable homes project for first home buyers to get off the ground sooner;
- \$297 million tax package to support first home buyers and boost housing supply, including first home owner duty concessions, increased first home owner grant cap, and an extension of the off-the-plan transfer duty concession;
- \$127 million top-up to the Remote Communities Fund to deliver additional housing investment, undertake municipal works, and support essential infrastructure and services in remote Aboriginal communities;
- \$50 million top-up to the Regional Housing Support Fund, increasing the fund's value to \$75 million. The Fund provides grants to support local housing and residential subdivision projects in regional WA;
- \$48 million to boost modular housing and apartment construction capacity via investment in advanced manufacturing facilities in Kwinana and Neerabup. The facilities are expected to provide prefabricated housing and infrastructure to regional WA; and
- \$40.7 million to boost residential land supply in the Kimberley, with 111 new lots to be developed at Broome North.

Real cost-of-living relief will be delivered to Western Australians living in the Kimberley through a range of initiatives that provide financial support for households, with the Cook Labor Government committing \$198 million for a \$100 Fuel Support Payment available to those with a valid driver's licence.

A further \$89.5 million will be invested to deliver a third round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment, which is providing \$150 for each primary and kindergarten student and \$250 for each secondary school student - including for the families of around 7,500 students in the Kimberley.

Regional travel to and from the Kimberley will continue to be supported, with funding committed in this Budget to support flights to and from Kununurra with Halls Creek and Balgo, as well as to and from Derby and Broome.

Other cost-of-living relief measures funded as part of this Budget include:

- \$36.4 million for free public transport for school students, including in Broome and Kununurra;
- \$35 million for a 10 per cent uplift in the value of the Energy Assistance Payment, Dependent Child Rebate, and Air Conditioning Allowance;
- \$33.7 million for to provide free travel on public transport on Sundays, including in Broome;
- \$14.5 million to establish a new Foster and Grand Carer Gold Card, offering concessions to carers providing a stable home and support to children and young people in out-of-home care arrangements;
- \$14.2 million to support and expand bus services in Broome;
- \$13.5 million to extend the WA Rent Relief Program;
- ongoing support for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme to keep airfares capped and affordable for eligible regional residents amid increasing fuel costs; and
- \$3.8 million to support continued operation of the Inter-Regional Flight Network, including for flights to and from Broome.

The Cook Labor Government's vision to diversify WA's nation-leading economy so that it remains the nation's economic powerhouse will be secured in the Kimberley through the following investments as part of the 2026-27 State Budget:

- more than \$150 million in loans to manufacturers to improve energy efficiency and invest in advanced manufacturing equipment as part of the Made in WA Energy Affordability Investment Program;

- \$124 million for lower fee and fee free TAFE in 2027, including at Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra, and Wyndham campuses;
- \$113.5 million for road maintenance across WA;
- \$83.2 million, jointly funded with the Commonwealth, to deliver Stage 1 of the Great Northern Highway Fitzroy to Gogo flood resilience works;
- \$33.1 million contribution to the nationally coordinated Fuel Excise Relief Program, and a further \$4.5 million for the deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases, supporting industry in the Kimberley;
- \$30 million to top up the Investment Attraction Fund for a second round of grants through the New Energies Industries Funding Stream;
- the West Kimberley Power Purchase Agreement has been extended to January 2031 for power reliability in the region;
- \$24.6 million to begin works needed to support the 2028 Kimberley Total Solar Eclipse;
- \$18 million to deliver Aboriginal tourism initiatives under the Jina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2026-2030;
- \$16 million to extend delivery of the Energy Ahead program to 2028-29, delivering energy efficiency upgrades and education to more than 10,000 low-income Synergy and Horizon Power customers;
- \$5 million to support the Garaan-ngaddim Horizontal Falls tourism transition project;
- \$2.4 million for the Aboriginal Pastoral Program in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions; and
- \$1.4 million to deliver a second round of the Small Business Growth Grants Program.

The 2026-27 State Budget will ensure all regional Western Australians can access the healthcare they need, when they need it.

That includes an additional investment of \$16.2 million in the Broome Renal Hostel.

Other investments include:

- \$294 million additional investment in regional health infrastructure;
- \$214 million for an uplift to WA Health's State-wide maintenance programs;
- \$143 million for additional investment in medical equipment and imaging replacement program throughout WA;
- \$68.6 million for the WA Country Health Service for regional palliative care, renal care, cancer and eye services, and continued support programs;
- \$49.8 million for the State's investment in the Child Development Services System Reform Program;
- \$43.8 million for a funding uplift for existing community mental health and alcohol and other drug services;
- \$29.7 million for and to expand suicide prevention initiatives;
- \$27.1 million for the free flu vaccine, FluMist and RSV immunisation programs; and
- \$4.1 million to expand the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot Project.

Quality infrastructure and services will also be supported through the Budget, with the following investments to bolster schools throughout the Kimberley:

- \$6.5 million for delivery of the Kimberley Schools Project in the 2027 school year;
- \$219 million boost to school maintenance, benefiting schools in the Kimberley;
- more than \$100 million for targeted maintenance and minor works projects across WA, which includes work on roofs, hardcourts and toilets, as well as additional investment in the Schools Clean Energy Technology Fund;
- \$310 million uplift in funding to support students with disability at public schools; and
- \$15.7 million to expand access to training and support for staff working with students with disability.

The Cook Labor Government will continue building safe and inclusive communities so that all Western Australians feel secure at home and at work through the following investments:

- \$421 million for child protection services, in addition to \$52.4 million extra support for foster carers and grandcarers;
- \$361 million for Foundational Supports - Thriving Kids services over the next five years, to provide support for children aged 8 and under with developmental delays or autism;
- \$91.1 million funding boost for new and continuing homelessness services;
- \$61.4 million for the Target 120 early intervention program for young people coming into repeated contact with WA Police, including in Halls Creek and Kununurra;
- \$60.7 million to provide ongoing funding for road safety community awareness campaigns and school education programs across WA;
- \$44.6 million uplift in operational funding for family and domestic violence refuges and safe houses across WA, including in the Kimberley;
- \$41 million to extend the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, targeted at reducing youth crime and supporting at-risk youth in the Kimberley;
- \$31.2 million towards the fire and emergency fleet replacement throughout WA;
- \$29.5 million uplift in resourcing for the Home Stretch WA service supporting young people as they age out of the child protection system, including in the Kimberley;
- \$24.2 million for WA Police for Operation Regional Shield in regional WA;
- \$20.3 million funding uplift for at-risk youth services around the State, including the Night Patrol and Youth Services in Broome and Kununurra;
- \$8.8 million to employ additional community liaison officers and a program coordinator across both regional and metropolitan areas; and
- \$1.5 million in 2026-27 to support continuation of the safeSPACE program in Kununurra, Kalgoorlie and Roebourne.

Protecting and restoring WA's environment so future generations can continue enjoying its economic and lifestyle benefits will be secured with the following investments:

- \$52.9 million to establish a Regional Water Source Fund for water source planning and investigation in regional Western Australia;
- \$24.7 million for biosecurity and animal disease preparedness activities;
- a further \$8.5 million towards the Fisheries Support Package, including funding for an enhanced science program and upgrades to the FishCatchWA app; and
- \$2.5 million to strengthen climate resilience planning across the State Government and support development of sector adaptation plans.

For more information, visit ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au

Comments attributed to Premier Roger Cook:

"Whether you live in Broome or the towns and remote communities throughout the Kimberley region, this Budget delivers for Western Australians and keeps WA strong.

"Our regions have been central to WA becoming the strongest economy in the nation and will be critical to our future economic success.

"That's why this Budget will help seize the big job-creating projects in regional WA, with investments in the economic infrastructure needed to expand our Seven Cities as hubs to provide quality services to the towns and remote communities within their regions."

Comments attributed to Regional Development and Kimberley Minister Stephen Dawson:

"The Cook Labor Government is proud to be making a range of investments in the Kimberley region in this year's State Budget.

"This includes funding towards affordable airfares and key transport needs, health infrastructure and boosting land supply.

"By continuing to invest in the Kimberley, we are helping ensure communities remain safe, connected and well supported now and into the future.

"Whether people live in one of our Seven Cities, a small town or a remote community, this government is committed to delivering for regional WA."

Comments attributed to Kimberley MLA Divina D'Anna:

"Through this State Budget, the Cook Labor Government is continuing to invest in the Kimberley so we're ready to seize new economic opportunities as they emerge.

"I'm proud we're also delivering real cost-of-living relief to help ease pressure on household budgets, along with record investment in social and affordable housing so more Kimberley families have a safe place to call home."

13. Federal Budget 2026/27

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide information on Federal budget initiatives that may be of interest to the Kimberley Regional Group.

In summary

- The 2026–27 Federal Budget was handed down on Tuesday, 12 May 2026.
- The Australian Local Government Association stated that the 2026-27 Federal Budget is a vote of confidence in Australia's 538 councils to deliver on national housing infrastructure priorities, but needs to do more to address the growing financial pressures threatening local government services across the country²³.

Background

- As above

Details

Whilst the budget contains a raft of measures that relate to regional Australia, the items highlighted relate to key issues that have been raised by the KRG.

Regional Development

Information on regional development initiatives is taken from the Budget 2026-27 Regional Ministerial Budget Statement²⁴.

Investing in places

Housing and land

A new \$2. Billion **Local Infrastructure Fund** under the Housing Support Program, to help local governments and state-owned utilities build critical 'last mile' infrastructure to unlock new housing. This targeted funding will unlock development-ready land and improve the feasibility of new housing projects, by providing water, sewer and electricity connections, with a focus on regional Australia. As part of this funding, \$500.0 million will be dedicated to local infrastructure in the regions. The first funding round will open later this year, with a second round to follow in 2027.

Growing Regions and Thriving Suburbs programs, together are provided with an additional \$750.0 million over four years from 2026–27. These programs will provide funding of between \$250,000 and

²³ <https://alga.com.au/a-mixed-bag-for-the-nations-councils-in-this-years-federal-budget/>

²⁴ <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/regional-ministerial-budget-statement-2026-27.pdf>

\$15.0 million to projects that enable place based benefits. Investing in broad-use community-focused infrastructure that creates and enhances amenity, and in venues where programs and activities can be held that encourage connection and a sense of belonging and identity

Stronger Communities Programme, which supports small-scale capital projects that enable and encourage community participation and help build vibrant, connected and resilient communities throughout Australia's regions.

- A \$22.5 million funding commitment over two years from 2026–27, Round 10 of this program will provide funding between \$2,500 to \$20,000 to small-scale projects that deliver direct benefits to communities and support local government–community partnership.

Infrastructure Investment Program - Investment towards new projects which will improve productivity and resilience, liveability and sustainability in regional Australia, including -

- \$4.0 million towards the Great Northern Highway Improvements – Broome to Kununurra.

Regional Precincts and Partnership Program²⁵ – Tasmania and the NT receive minimal funding in 2026/27 (15.2M). There is not funding for this program in the outyears.

Road Infrastructure

The following is summary of road initiatives in the Federal budget. This information is taken from Budget Paper 3.

Black Spot Program – funding increases from 150M in 2025/26 to \$154.7M in 2026/27 and remains at \$154.7M in the outyears. WA receives \$17.7M each year.

Roads to Recovery- increased from 734M in 2025/ 26 to 843M in 2026/7 and increases to 1,175.9M in 2027/28 and 162M in 2028/29 dropping to 999m in 2029/30²⁶. WA funding in 2026/27 is \$126.3M, increasing to \$163m in 2027/28 and reducing to \$161.2 in 2028/29 and \$146.2 in 2029/30.

Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program increased from 201.5M in 2025/26 to 330m in 206/27 then dropping to 230m in the outyears²⁷. WA's share decreases in 2026/27 from 35.3M to 33.4M. It continues to decrease across the outyears to 24.7M in 2029/30.

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure – reduces from \$415.6m in 2025/26 to \$14.8M in 2026/27. There is not funding beyond this for the program.

Developing Northern Australia – Northern Australia Roads. The Australian Government is providing funding to Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory for infrastructure projects that are essential to the movement of people and freight to support economic development in the region. Projects include links to roads connecting communities and regional towns to ports and airports. WA's share increases from 1.5M in 2025/26 to 29.8M in 2026/27 then decreases to 14.3m an 10.8M in the outyears.

²⁵ Cwth Budget Paper 3, p 86

²⁶ Cwth Budget Paper 3, p 70

²⁷ Cwth Budget Paper 3, p 70

Local Government

Financial Assistance Grants – Bring-forward

The Government is supporting local councils across Australia to continue delivery of essential services and manage the impacts of fuel supply disruption by bringing forward an 80 per cent payment of the 2026–27 Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) entitlement (\$2.9 billion). Of the early payment of \$2.9 billion, it is anticipated that almost \$2.0 billion will be provided to councils in regional Australia.

Emergency Management

Funding for natural disaster relief is expected to increase by \$2.5 billion²⁸. This includes

- \$6M increased to NEMA to continue engagement with states and territories on national high-speed and high-capacity mobile broadband emergency response
- Funding to implement the new national cell broadcast messaging system to improve emergency warning communications
- Funding to bolster the national aerial firefighting fleet²⁹

This is in addition to assistance provided under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The \$1B (\$200M per year from 1 July 2023) Disaster Ready Fund continues with Round Four (2026–27) expected to open by mid-2026³⁰.

Border Security

The Government will provide \$88.6 million in 2026–27 to support Australia's border security. Funding includes:

- \$55.8 million to address border and biosecurity threats from illegal foreign fishing activities in Australia's northern waters, including maintaining the presence of the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in the region, supporting prosecutions by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and legal support by the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
- \$18.3 million for the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the ABF to sustain capabilities to counter maritime people smuggling targeting Australia
- \$14.5 million for the sustainment of new ABF patrol vessels³¹.

Civil Maritime security – illegal foreign fishing.

\$55.8 million in 2026–27 to continue and expand coordinated, whole-of-government operational efforts to detect, deter and disrupt Illegal Foreign Fishing (IFF) and protect Australia's maritime interests in the region. This includes

- \$48.3 million in 2026–27 for the ABF to sustain existing capabilities to combat IFF through operations Lunar, Leedstrum in north and northwestern Australia, and Operation Broadstaff in far north Queensland. Additionally, the Government has committed
- \$3.0 million in 2026–27 for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, \$4.2 million in 2026–27 for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and \$0.3 million in 2026–27 for the

²⁸ <https://budget.gov.au/content/06-security-and-investment.htm>

²⁹ Cwth Budget Paper 2, p 116

³⁰ <https://www.nema.gov.au/our-work/key-programs/disaster-ready-fund>

³¹ Cwth Budget Paper 2, p120

Attorney-General's Department, for strengthening compliance, enforcement and prosecution outcomes in countering IFF³².

Housing

The following is summary of housing initiatives in the Federal budget. This information is taken from Budget Papers 2 and 3. The message across the budgets is that Community Housing Providers HPs are the preferred delivery vehicle for the Commonwealth (and State governments) for new social and affordable housing supply.

- **National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness (NASHH)** - WA \$199.5M in 2026-27, indexed to \$213.0M in 2029-30. WA total is \$1,019M over four years. (\$1.9B p.a. nationally) \$400M+ per year dedicated homelessness funding requires a State government match. Delivered through state housing authorities and community housing providers³³.
- **100,000 Homes for First Home Buyers, Grant component:** WA receives \$79.2M in 2026-27 (national \$326.1M). The WA total is \$212.3M across 2026-27 to 2028-29. Funds direct construction of homes by private builders, reserved for First Home Buyers by 30 June 2034, plus enabling infrastructure³⁴.
- **Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) Remote Indigenous Housing:** WA receives \$25.0M in 2026-27 (national \$125M; NT \$50M, QLD/WA/SA/VIC each \$25M). Joint Commonwealth/State \$1B+ HAFF dwellings delivered via community housing providers. The KRG called for a new regional and remote housing funding stream. No new HAFF streams created in this Budget³⁵.
- **Local Infrastructure Fund:** \$2B national fund over four years to build 'last mile' infrastructure needed for new housing developments to unlock essential infrastructure such as roads, water, power and sewerage.³⁶ Funding will support up to 65,000 homes over ten years. The Local Infrastructure Fund will be available in states that commit to further productivity enhancing reforms i.e. improved planning efficiency, increased land supply, and supporting a more consistent national construction code. This will be delivered through local governments and utility providers via private contractors.
- **Tax Reform, Negative Gearing & Capital Gains Tax (CGT)** from 1 July 2027³⁷ - Negative gearing limited to new builds; established properties acquired after 7:30PM AEST 12 May 2026 cannot offset losses against non-rental income. 50% CGT discount replaced by cost-base indexation plus 30% minimum tax. Critical exemptions include build-to-rent (BTR), private investors supporting government housing programs, widely-held trusts and super funds³⁸.
- **Supporting Young People into Community Housing** - \$59.4M over 4 years opens via CHP partnerships, targeting 4,000+ youth aged 16-24³⁹.

³² Regional Ministerial Budget Statement 2026-27 p 58

³³ Cwth Budget Paper 3 pp.64-67 (NASHH WA \$199.5M 2026-27, total \$1,019M to 2029-30).

https://budget.gov.au/content/bp3/download/bp3_08_part_2_affordable.pdf

³⁴ Cwth Budget Paper 3 pp.65-67

³⁵ Cwth Budget Paper 3 p.67 and BP2 p.139 https://budget.gov.au/content/bp2/download/bp2_2026-27.pdf

³⁶ Cwth Budget Paper 3 p.67 and BP2 p.139

³⁷ Cwth Budget Paper 2 pp.20-21

³⁸ Cwth Budget Paper 2 pp.20-21

³⁹ Cwth Budget Paper 2 p.144

- **First Nations housing peak body** -\$6.3M over 3 years
- **New Homes Bonus** - \$714.2M by 2029-30⁴⁰. Performance-based funding for states and territories that exceed their allocated share of the 1.2 million home target.
- **Advancing Prefabricated / Modular housing** \$39.3M over 2 years⁴¹ to remove barriers to modern methods of housing construction.
- Extending the **ban on foreign buyers purchasing established homes** until mid-2029.
- **Help to Buy Scheme:** The 5% deposit scheme continues, with expanded income thresholds.
- **Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)** - No further increases in this Budget; however, CRA has increased by around 50 per cent since March 2022. It currently supports around 1.4 million renters, with total expenditure projected at \$7.39 billion in 2026–27 (up from \$6.99 billion in 2025–26).
- **National Construction Code - \$42.7 million over four years** from 2026–27 to provide ongoing grants to Standards Australia to provide free public access to standards referenced in Commonwealth and state and territory legislation. Free access to all standards referenced in legislation to reduce costs for small businesses and tradies (saving up to \$1,600 per year) and remove barriers to modern construction methods.
- **Unlocking the data and AI opportunity** - Up to \$70 million for AI Accelerator grants, alongside expanded use of AI in government processes to streamline approvals and improve usability of the National Construction Code.

Highlights for Northern Australia

The Regional Ministerial Budget Statement 2026/27; Investing in Australia's Regional Growth and Prosperity provide an overview of the budget highlights for northern Australia⁴². These align with and advance the Northern Australia Action Plan 2024–2029. Key measures are outlined below.

⁴⁰ Cwth Budget Paper 3 p.68

⁴¹ Cwth Budget Paper 3 p.65

⁴² <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/regional-ministerial-budget-statement-2026-27.pdf>

	Initiative	Investment	Portfolio
1	Critical Minerals Strategic Reserve	\$1.2 billion	Industry, Science and Resources
2	Boyne Island Aluminium Smelter	\$1.0 billion	Industry, Science and Resources
3	Mount Isa copper smelter and Townsville copper refinery	\$600.0 million	Industry, Science and Resources
4	Strengthening Employment Services Systems (*Broome and Yarrabah among initial focus locations)	\$312.1 million	Employment and Workplace Relations
5	Expanding the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program	\$299.0 million	Prime Minister and Cabinet
6	Implementing Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices	\$218.3 million	Social Services
7	Improving Outcomes for Children	\$171.7 million	Social Services
8	Closing the Gap Health Infrastructure	\$144.1 million	Health, Disability and Ageing
9	First Nations Education Outcomes	\$113.0 million	Education
10	Protecting Australia's Native Species (*Cairns region among initial focus locations)	\$110.8 million	Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
11	Great Barrier Reef Restoration and Sustainability Projects	\$91.8 million	Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
12	Civil Maritime Security – Countering Illegal Foreign Fishing	\$55.8 million	Home Affairs
13	Supporting Aboriginal Hostels Ltd to Continue Delivering Critical Short-Term Accommodation Services	\$48.3 million	Prime Minister and Cabinet
14	Extending Supports for Birthing on Country	\$44.4 million	Health, Disability and Ageing
15	Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement Implementation	\$38.6 million	Foreign Affairs and Trade
16	Expanding the Stores Efficiency and Resilience Package	\$32.7 million	Prime Minister and Cabinet
17	Expanding the Low-Cost Essentials Subsidy Scheme	\$27.4 million	Prime Minister and Cabinet
18	Closing the Gap – further investments	\$27.0 million	Employment and Workplace Relations

19	Bagot Road Safety and Capacity Upgrades	\$24.0 million	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
20	13 YARN	\$13.9 million	Health, Disability and Ageing
21	Northern Territory Regional Logistic Hubs	\$10.0 million	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
22	Good to Great Schools Australia	\$5.0 million	Education
23	Great Northern Highway Improvements – Broome to Kununurra	\$4.0 million	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
24	Fairer Fuel and Workplace Relations Supports for Regional Australia	\$1.3 million	Employment and Workplace Relations
25	Aged Care Workforce Remote Accord program	\$0.7 million	Health, Disability and Ageing
26	Medicare Urgent Care Clinics Ongoing Funding	Funded within existing resources	Health, Disability and Ageing
27	Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation	Funded within existing resources	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
28	First Nations Digital Inclusion	Funded within existing resources	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Risk

Reputational: if the KRG is not aware of the implications of the Federal budget on the region.

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 discussed the outcomes of the federal Budget 2026/27 for the Kimberley region.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		

14. Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 13: KRG Submission (separately attached)

Purpose

For the KRG to note that a submission was made to the Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity.

In summary

- The Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity was established 17 March 2026
- The Committee called for submission which closed Friday 1 May 2026.
- The Committee provided an opportunity for the KRG to advocate to the Federal Government its positions on housing - the KRG Submission was based on the KRG the Housing, Rates Exemptions and FBT Position Papers .
- The Committee received 94 submissions
- The Committee is to present a final report by 30 September 2026.

Background

That Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity was established to inquire into and report on the following Terms of Reference:⁴³

- a. the extent and nature of intergenerational housing inequity in Australia across housing tenure types;
- b. consideration of the laws, policies, practices and services that have been most effective in reducing intergenerational housing inequity in Australia and overseas;
- c. the experience of intergenerational housing inequity on different population cohorts, including but not limited to socio-economic, gender, geographical location, disability, ethnicity and racial status;
- d. the causes of intergenerational housing inequity, including nature and rates of construction, rental policies and practices, tax settings, homelessness policies, lending rules, and public and social housing practices and investment;
- e. the factors that promote or impede action on significant housing reform;
- f. policy, legislative and other options for tackling intergenerational housing inequity and evening the playing field for current and future generations; and
- g. any related matters.

Committee Membership is

⁴³ Further information can be found at -

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Intergenerational_Housing_Inequity/HousingInequity

- Senator Barbara Pocock – Greens SA
- Senator the Hon Carol Broan – ALP, TAS
- Senator Andrew Bragg – Lib, NSW
- Senator Maria Kovic – Lib, NSW
- Senator Corinne Mulholland - ALP, Qld

Risk

Reputational: Housing is a critical issue in the Kimberley, and the KRG may suffer reputational risk if it is not seen as advocating for increased housing supply and policy reform.

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 that a submission was made to the Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		

15. 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 Kimberley floods and the Canberra visit.
- Shires 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.

Topics Discussed

- Update on the Halls Creek oval
- Rate increases 2026/27
- Scheduled Shire visits to Canberra – Shire of Broome 29-30 June
- Madeleine King visit to Kununurra in the next couple of weeks

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		

16. Executive Officer Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Officer

Attachment 14: EO Report April 2026

Purpose

To update the KRG on the Executive Officer services provided for the period April 2026 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			
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	-
Carried:	3/0		

Attachment 14: EO Report April 2026

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	-
Strategic Planning	Development of a Strategic Plan and a 2 year Action Plan	8
Advocacy Strategy Management of Social Housing	Included in KRG Action Plan 2026-27	-
Kimberley Housing Pipeline	In Progress	10
Developing Northern Australia Conference 2026	In Progress	17
General Stakeholder Engagement	Ongoing – see Stakeholder list	16

Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Purpose
KRG members	Developing Northern Australia Conference 2026 Alice Springs, Regional Waste Management
KRG Secretariat	Agenda items, advocacy discussions, finance administrative matters, Canberra 2026 trip
Executive Team	Developing Northern Australia Conference logistics, Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity, KRG Housing projects
Bill Tatchell, CEO, Australia's North West	Invitation to a KRG meeting
Glen Chidlow, CEO, Kimberley Development Commission	Invitation to a KRG meeting
Michele Puci, Director Regional Development East Kimberley, Kimberley, Development Commission	• Status of the KDC PBC Capability Project • Update on the progress and timeframe for the Review of the KDC Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023. • Information on a Kimberley Tourism Strategy • The status of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy

Stakeholders	Purpose
Janine Hatch, and Tracey Deegan Director and A/Director Regional Development Australia Kimberley	• NAIF Review • Senate Select Committee on Intergenerational Housing Inequity
Divina D'Anna MLA Member for Kimberley, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification	Invitation to KRG Meeting
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley	Invitation to KRG Meeting
Julia Cutler, Conference Manager, Developing Northern Australia	2026 Developing Northern Australia Conference

Time Allocation

Historic Contract: September 2022 – August 2025

Name	Contract Hrs.	Actual Hrs.
Paul Rosair	950	991.5
Michelle Mackenzie	704	696
Jane Lewis	852	710.5
Support	146	253

Current Contract: September 2025 – August 2027

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

In consultation with the Secretariat, contractual hours will be allocated in accordance with the action plan, with any surplus hours redirected to priority projects as required.

17. General Business

Item	Responsible	Comments /Actions Arising
Canberra Trip	KRG Secretariat	Executive Officer and Secretariat to plan a Canberra visit aligned with 2026 Parliamentary sitting dates.
Eclipse Update	KRG Secretariat	No update provided as Secretariat had to leave meeting to drive to Derby.
Kimberley Economic Forum	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Verbal update provided
Developing Northern Australia Conference	KRG Executive Officer	Verbal update provided
July 2026 Government Forum	KRG Executive Officer	No joint forum in July with the RCAWA. Action: 1. Executive Team to update the July KRG meeting from an in person meeting to a Zoom meeting. 2. Executive Team to schedule an in person meeting in Perth in the lead up to the State Budget, with options including September during Local Government Week or the already scheduled November 2026 in person meeting.
Community Housing Providers Rate Exemptions	CEO, Shire of Broome	Action: Executive Team to refresh KRG Housing Position Paper Moved: Shire of Broome Seconded: Shire of Derby West Kimberley
Local Government Sustainability Hearing	Executive Officer	KRG has been invited to present at a hearing at Parliament House in Canberra on 25 June 2026. Action: Executive Officer to discuss with the CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, the CEO presenting on behalf of KRG.

Attachment 15: 2026 Meeting dates

CEO Ringaround

In Person Meetings

Zoom meetings

Zone meetings

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
February	CEO Ringaround	6/2/26	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Travel, Tour and Dinner	12/2/26	Tour from 4:00pm	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley in person plus Zoom availability for Zone
	Kimberley Zone	13/2/26	9:00am – 9:45 am	
	KRG	13/2/26	10:00 – 12:30pm	
	Strategic Planning Session	13/2/26	1:00 – 3:00pm	
April	Kimberley Zone Only	24/4/2026	9:00am – 10:00am	Zoom
May	CEO Ringaround	20/5/26	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Travel	27/5/26	Arrive for 1:30pm meeting start	Shire of Derby West Kimberley in conjunction with the Economic Forum
	KRG	27/5/26	1:30pm – 4:30pm	

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
	Kimberley Economic Forum	27/5/26 to 29/5/26	From 5:00pm	
June	Kimberley Zone Only	19/6/2026	9:00am – 10:00am	Zoom
July	CEO Ringaround	9/7/26	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	KRG Meeting	16/07/26	11:30am – 2:30pm	City of Vincent (TBC)
	Government Forum		3:00pm – 5:00pm followed by networking session until 6:00pm	
	Dinner		6:30pm – 9:30pm	Le Vivant or similar
August	DNA conference	5/8/26 – 7/8/26	TBC	Alice Springs
	CEO Ringaround	7/8/26	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom

CEO Ringaround	In Person Meetings	Zoom meetings	Zone meetings
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Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
	Kimberley Zone	14/8/26	9:00am – 9:45am	Zoom
	KRG	14/8/26	10:00am – 12:30pm	
October	CEO Ringaround	2/10/26	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	KRG Only	9/10/26	9:00am – 11:30 am	Zoom
November	CEO Ringaround	13/11/26	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Kimberley Zone	20/11/26	9:00am – 9:45am	In Perth (TBC)
	KRG (short meeting)	20/11/26	10:00am – 11:00am	
	Strategic planning	20/11/26	11:00am – 1:00pm	

Meeting Closure: 4:19pm