



**THE  
KIMBERLEY  
REGIONAL GROUP**

**Meeting Minutes**

21 February 2025

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## 1. Meeting Open: 9:33AM

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
<b>Members</b>		
Cr David Menzel (Chair)	President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	Zoom
<b>Observers</b>		
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Cr Geoff Haerewa (Deputy)	Deputy President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Tamara Clarkson	Acting CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Brett Angwin	Councillor, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Brian Ellison	Councillor, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	Zoom
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
<b>Executive Support Team</b>		
Paul Rosair	Principal, NAJA Business Consulting Services	Zoom
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal, Mira Consulting	Zoom
Jane Lewis	Principal, Redit Research	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting Services	Zoom
<b>Presentations</b>		
John Hutchison	Superintendent, Kimberley District Office WA Police	Zoom
Divina D'Anna MLA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Tourism.	Zoom
<b>Apologies</b>		

### 3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting

#### Item for Decision

Submitted by: Secretariat

Attachment 1: Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

#### Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
<p><b>That the Minutes of the Kimberley Regional Group held on 11 October 2024, as published and circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.</b></p>		<p>See Attachment 1 – Matters Arising and Outstanding Business</p>	
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	See Attachment
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

## Attachment 1 Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
<b>FBT Housing</b>		
11/10/2024	<p><b>Action:</b> Executive Officer to work with the KRG Chair, Secretariat and the CEO of the Shire of Broome to prepare a paper to take to Canberra regarding the impact of the increasing the FBT exemptions around remote area housing and childcare.</p> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b> Complete: A Position Paper has been developed, and advocacy being undertaken on this issue</p>	Executive Officer / KRG Chair / KRG Secretariat / CEO of the Shire of Broome
<b>Submission to Clearing Legislative Reform</b>		
11/10/2024	<p><b>Action</b> Executive officer to liaise with KRG CEOs to obtain necessary information, collate it, and submit to WALGA by the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024</p> <p><b>Status/Progress</b> Complete: Submitted 22<sup>nd</sup> December (extension received). Refer General Business</p>	Executive Officer / KRG CEOs
<b>Administrative Matters</b>		
11/10/2024	<p>Review of KRG Strategic Documents</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a strategic document framework</li> <li>2. Executive Team to provide status update on actions in the Business Plan at a KRG Meeting next year</li> <li>3. Executive Team to schedule a workshop to develop a new KRG Business Plan in 2025</li> </ol> <p><b>Status/Progress</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Progress.</li> <li>2. Complete: Refer item 12</li> <li>3. In Progress. Refer item 12</li> </ol>	Executive Team
21/02/2024 & 23/08/2024	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing Northern Australia: Executive Officer to work with Dr Allan Dale regarding CRCNA.</li> <li>2. Executive Officer to invite Grey Mackay from the Land Alliance to the October KRG meeting to present on bushfire issues in the Kimberley.</li> </ol> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Progress.</li> <li>2. In Progress.</li> </ol>	Executive Team

<b>State and Federal Government Election Strategy</b>		
4/10/2023 & 23/08/2024	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20/06/2024 – Executive Team to execute election advocacy, communications &amp; engagement plan for 2025 State and Federal elections</li> <li>2. Progress a round of KRG meetings in Canberra with key stakeholders on the 18th and 19th of November.</li> <li>3. Members to forward their priority meeting requests to the Executive Team as soon as possible.</li> <li>4. Executive Team to have 50 election packs printed and distribute to members.</li> </ol> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Progress.</li> <li>2. Complete.</li> <li>3. Complete.</li> <li>4. Complete.</li> </ol>	Executive Team
<b>Advocacy Strategy Management &amp; Maintenance of Social Housing</b>		
16/02/2024	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Executive Officer to develop a template for members to populate to support the advocacy strategy.</p> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <p>In Progress.</p>	Executive Team
<b>Kimberley Housing Roundtable 2024</b>		
23/08/2024 & 11/10/2024	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Executive Team to progress next steps from the Roundtable with each Shire, in partnership with Housing Australia, the Department of Communities, Development WA, the Housing Supply Unit, WA Department of Treasury, and non-government agencies.</li> <li>2. Executive Team to reach out and organise a meeting with the CEO of Housing Australia as part of the visit to Canberra.</li> </ol> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Progress: The Executive Team continues to speak with Housing Australia, the Federal Minister for Housing and the Housing Supply Unit, Development WA and the Department of Communities as the pipeline work progresses – Refer to Housing Pipeline item</li> <li>2. Complete: meeting held in Sydney</li> </ol>	Executive Team

<b>Review of Financial Assistance Grants</b>		
23/11/2023	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWEK to run a procurement process and issue a RFQ</li> <li>Executive Officer to develop a Position Paper based on the FAGs review and use for advocacy.</li> </ol> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete.</li> <li>Complete: The Review is on the February 2025 agenda for endorsement. Refer Item 8.</li> </ol>	Executive Team
<b>Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package</b>		
23/11/2023	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWEK to run a procurement process and issue a RFQ</li> <li>Executive Team to develop a community safety and crime prevention investment package</li> </ol> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete.</li> <li>Complete: The investment package is on the February 2025 agenda for endorsement. Refer Item 9.</li> </ol>	Executive Team
<b>Benchmarking</b>		
23/11/2023	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Spreadsheet to be sent for 2023/24 Actuals and 2024/25 Budget.</p> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <p>In Progress: Spreadsheets have been sent out and information to be returned by Councils to the Executive Team.</p>	Executive Team / Members
<b>Shared Services</b>		
20/06/2024	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Officer and CEOs to discuss next steps out of session and to report back to the KRG.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Executive Officer to organise a quarterly meeting with CEOs to progress workshop.</li> </ol> <p><b>Status / Progress:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete: The 4 CEOs met in person on 30/07/24 in Broome. The discussion focussed on staffing challenges opportunities to explore together finance and enterprise platforms.</li> </ol>	Executive Officer / CEO's

	<p>2. In Progress.</p> <p>3. In Progress: This was discussed at the Strategy Workshop.</p>	
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### Watching Brief

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

State government funding to support young people in the Kimberley. Cr McCumstie is the KRG observer member on the Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee (AYWSC) and will provide updates as required. Note the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group (ARRG) has been undertaking media expressing disappointment at the lack of government commitment to implement recommendations of reports into youth suicide in the Kimberley. New \$4M community-led Immediate Response Night Space (IRNS) service for young people in Broome. There is no overarching youth justice strategy for the region.

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

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

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

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

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



## Resolved

Media and Communications Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Letters of congratulations to new State Ministers
Audited statements circulated
KRG meeting dates set and circulated
Service Level Agreement
Policy Position Papers
Investment Prospectus 2023/24
Lord Mayors Distress Relief Funding
MOU finalised and signed
Insurance Costs relief as a result of flood impacts
Potential tourism opportunities for total eclipse events, provided by Kym Francesconi
Regional Road Group: Shire allocations
KRG Website and LinkedIn profile - operational
BBY and WKFEC invitation to present to KRG
National Housing and Homelessness Plan submitted 20/10/2023. Published DSS Engage Website
Service Level Agreement Assessment – 5% increase endorsed 23/11/2023
July – September quarterly report – 23 November 2023 meeting.
Simplified Governance Compliance Papers – endorsed 23 November 2023 meeting
Regional Road Group Road Projects Funding Allocation – wrote to WALGA outlining KRG’s position
Emergency Management Policy Position – Wrote to Matt Reimer DFES
Members advised Cr Mitchell of their response to the Regional Road Group Project grant funding
Ministerial notes 15/02/24 – Minister Papalia, Minister Beazley, Premier. Sent to members 26/02/24
Requirements for the Deputy Chair position clarified and stands endorsed as per November 2023
Submissions to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding & the Senate Inquiry.
WA LEMA Review endorsed by SEMC August 2023 – uploaded on SEMC website
Emergency Services position paper endorsed 23 November 2023 meeting
Priority Action List – feedback provided by members, E.T allocate resources from contract hours
SDWK & SoHC provided bridge issues to EO. KRG wrote to State and Federal Government
State and Federal Government Election Strategy, RAI Summit 2024, position papers on website
Kimberley Housing Roundtable – Broome 29 July 2024
Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing - endorsed April 2024 meeting
SDWK provided Infill Housing and Investigations Report
Regional Volunteering Strategy 2020 endorsed at individual council meetings. EO actioned
RCAWA approved KRG to use the benchmarking template.
Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability submitted 30 May 2024
Tanami Road Funding – KRG Media release issued, SoHC leading work on a Activation Strategy
Relationship with Kimberley Development Commission
Alcohol Restrictions: EO monitored changes in alcohol restrictions and advised accordingly
Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability - EO presented at the Public Hearing 28 August 2024
EO Contract Renewal – Feedback discussed with Secretariat & new arrangements implemented

## 5. Correspondence

### Item for Noting

Submitted by: Secretariat

**Attachment 2: Chris Water, Assistant Commissioner, Regional operations WEST**

**Attachment 3: Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Cities**

**Attachment 4: Mala Haji-Ali JP, CEO, West Kimberley Futures**

**Attachment 5: The Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

**Attachment 6: The Hon David Michael MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum**

**Attachment 7: The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of WA**

**Attachment 8: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP; Prime Minister**

**Attachment 9: The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of WA**

**Attachment 10: The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Leader of the WA Labor Party**

**Attachment 11: Ms Libby Mettam MLA, Leader of the WA Liberal Party**

**Attachment 12: Mr Shane Love MLA, Leader of the Nationals WA**

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

Correspondence In	
Date	08/11/2024
From	Chris Water, Assistant Commissioner, Regional operations WEST
Topic	Meeting Request
Attachment	2
Date	11/11/2024
From	Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Cities
Topic	Meeting Request
Attachment	3
Date	28/11/2024
From	Mala Haji-Ali JP, CEO, West Kimberley Futures
Topic	EC-West Strategic Plan & Annual Report
Attachment	4
Date	06/12/2024
From	The Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
Topic	Meeting Request & 2025 Election Priorities
Attachment	5

Date	09/01/2025
From	The Hon David Michael MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum
Topic	Meeting Request & 2025 Election Priorities
Attachment	6
Date	11/02/2025
From	The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of WA
Topic	2025/2026 Federal and State Budget Submission
Attachment	7
<b>Correspondence Out</b>	
Date	02/10/2024
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister
Topic	Invitation to meet in Canberra or the Kimberley
Attachment	8
Date	05/02/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of WA
Topic	Vision for the Kimberley
Attachment	9
Date	12/02/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Leader of the Labor Party
Topic	Vision for the Kimberley
Attachment	10
Date	10/02/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Ms Libby Mettam MLA, Leader of the WA Liberal Party
Topic	Unlocking the Kimberley
Attachment	11
Date	10/02/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Mr Shane Love MLA, Leader of the Nationals WA
Topic	Unlocking the Kimberley
Attachment	12

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

Attachment 2 Correspondence In: Chris Waters; Assistant Commissioner; Meeting Request



Australian  
**BORDER FORCE**

Ref No: MC24-029148

David Menzel  
Chair  
Kimberly Regional Group  
david.menzel@swek.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr. Menzel

Thank you for your correspondence on 20 August. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to the Minister's attention. The Minister thanks you for the congratulatory message and sends his apology as he is unable to meet. However, your correspondence has been referred to me as the matter falls within my remit.

As the Assistant Commissioner for West Command I would be happy to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss Australian border force's presence in the northwest and the protocols we currently have in place.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course to discuss. My direct link of contact is [ACWest.ExecutiveSupport@abf.gov.au](mailto:ACWest.ExecutiveSupport@abf.gov.au) for further communication to arrange a time and place.

I would suggest that you would also meet with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry from a biosecurity angle. Contact: John Elson - Asst. Director - Biosecurity Operations Division [John.Elson@aff.gov.au](mailto:John.Elson@aff.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



CHRIS WATERS  
Assistant Commissioner  
Regional operations WEST

B / 11 / 2024

Attachment 3 Correspondence In: Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister; Meeting Request



**SENATOR THE HON JENNY MCALLISTER  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
MINISTER FOR CITIES**

Ref No: MC24-024437

Councillor David Menzel  
Chair  
Kimberley Regional Group

david.menzel@swek.wa.gov.au

Dear Councillor

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 August 2024 regarding my appointment as the Minister for Emergency Management, and bringing information regarding the Kimberley Regional Group and observations around the Kimberley floods to my attention.

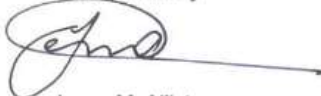
I acknowledge the challenges faced by the communities impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie and the associated flooding that occurred across the Kimberley region in 2022 and 2023. The National Emergency Management Agency is continuing to work closely with the Cook Government to ensure assistance is available under the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

I note you have identified a key learning from the floods is investing in the resilience of critical services and infrastructure. As you will be aware, the Albanese and Cook Governments are cost-sharing a \$104.9 million Infrastructure Betterment program under the DRFA. This program will ensure essential public assets damaged by the Kimberley floods will be rebuilt to a stronger, more resilient standard intended to better withstand future natural disasters.

I also note that as part of my announcement about successful Disaster Ready Fund Round Two projects on 28 August 2024, the Kimberley Region will receive nearly \$6.3 million in Commonwealth funding across three projects. This includes \$5.37 million for the Eastern Community Resilience Centre in the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley.

Thank you for extending the opportunity to meet with the Kimberley Regional Group to discuss the matters you have raised. A meeting invitation will be considered through my diary process and my office will be in contact with you.

Yours sincerely



Jenny McAllister

// / / / 2024

Attachment 4 Correspondence In: Mala Haji-Ali JP, CEO; EC-West Strategic Plan & Annual Report

**From:** Mala Hajiali <[mala.hajiali@wkfec.org.au](mailto:mala.hajiali@wkfec.org.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 November 2024 10:23 AM  
**To:** Michelle Mackenzie <[michelle@mira-consulting.com.au](mailto:michelle@mira-consulting.com.au)>  
**Subject:** UPDATE: EC-West Strategic Plan & Annual Report  
**Importance:** High

Hi Michelle

Hope all is well and you have a nice break planned for the Christmas season.

I'm excited to share with you a number of valuable documents we have recently launched which provide opportunities for stronger collaboration between EC-West and the Kimberley Regional Group. Please view the attachments to consider Our One Page Plan and AGM highlights, as well as our most recent Annual Report and Strategic Plan, via the two links below.

- Strat plan 24/28 = [Strategic Plan Report](#)
- Annual report = [2023/24 Annual Report - Final](#)

Could you please circulate the four documents to the members of the KRG.

Thanks,

**Mala Haji-Ali JP**  
Chief Operations Officer



**EC-West**

Shop 2, 2/158 Frederick Street  
Broome WA, 6725

P: 08 9192 2894

M: 0419 757 182

E: [mala.hajiali@wkfec.org.au](mailto:mala.hajiali@wkfec.org.au)

W: [www.wkfec.org.au](http://www.wkfec.org.au)



Attachment 5 Correspondence In: The Hon Dr Tony Buti; Meeting Request & Strategic Priorities



**Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA**  
**Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs;**  
**Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

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Our Ref: 80-18822

Ms Bec Billing  
Corporate Services Manager

Via e-mail: [info@naja.com.au](mailto:info@naja.com.au)

Dear Ms Billing

**MEETING REQUEST WITH KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Thank you for your email on 6 November 2024, outlining the Kimberley Regional Groups (KRG) election priorities for 2025.

I note that KRG are proposing significant upgrades in support of improved access to quality services and employment for Communities. These developments will undoubtedly encourage economic growth and prosperity in the region.

Thank you for also providing your Investment Prospectus and I look forward to seeing the results of its implementation in the Kimberley region.

I will be in contact should I have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Tony Buti MLA  
**MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

06 DEC 2024



Attachment 6 Correspondence In: The Hon David Michael MLA; Meeting Request & Strategic Priorities



**Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Ports; Road Safety;  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport**

Our Ref: 83-06112

Mr Paul Rosair  
NAJA Business Consulting

[info@naja.com.au](mailto:info@naja.com.au)

Dear Mr Rosair,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me to share the Kimberley Regional Group's 2025 Election Priorities and Investment Prospectus. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the KRG's vision and the pillars that underpin your strategic focus.

The Kimberley region holds immense significance, both culturally and economically, and I commend the KRG's commitment to fostering equity, preserving heritage, and driving inclusive growth. Your proactive approach to addressing regional challenges and opportunities is commendable, and I value the dedication your team demonstrates in working collaboratively with local communities.

I will ensure your correspondence is given due consideration ahead of the upcoming election. As I am sure you can appreciate, I am unable to accommodate a meeting at this time.

Thank you again for your advocacy on behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group and taking the time to write to me to convey these priorities.

Yours sincerely



**HON DAVID MICHAEL MLA**  
MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM

9 January 2025

Attachment 7 Correspondence In: The Hon Roger Cook MLA; 2025/2026 Federal and State Budget Submission



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**Premier of Western Australia**

Our Reference: 60-145202

Mr David Menzel  
Chair  
The Kimberley Regional Group  
C/o – [michelle@mira-consulting.com.au](mailto:michelle@mira-consulting.com.au)

Dear Mr Menzel

I acknowledge your correspondence received on 10 February 2025 to the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia, regarding your 2025/2026 Federal and State Budget Submission.

As you may be aware, a State Election will be held on 8 March 2025.

Following an election announcement on 6 February 2025 the Government assumed a caretaker role, ensuring that decisions are not made that would bind an incoming government or limit its freedom of action.

Given these circumstances, the Premier has asked me to reply on his behalf and advise that your correspondence will be held for the incoming Government following this State Election.

If you have any further enquiries regarding your correspondence, please refer to the reference number above.

Thank you for taking the time to contact our office.

Yours sincerely



VERONICA JEFFERY  
A/CHIEF OF STAFF

11 FEB 2025

Attachment 8 Correspondence Out: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP; Meeting Request



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

[anthony.albanese.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:anthony.albanese.MP@aph.gov.au)

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Dear Prime Minister

**Invitation to meet in Canberra or the Kimberley**

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group of Local Governments, I would like to invite you to the Kimberley region of Western Australia to meet with the four Kimberley Shires and key stakeholders to discuss matters of mutual interest. Also, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you when we are in Canberra on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

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

We would like to discuss with you a strategic package of enabling investment for the Kimberley that will deliver sustainable long term growth and prosperity. The four Shires have identified a range of projects to diversify our economy and create sustainable jobs through improved services and infrastructure. These projects build on the policy initiatives of your government, with a focus on regional liability, Closing the Gap, border security and tacking climate change. They will deliver positive outcomes not only for our region but the nation. A copy of this package is attached.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in Canberra and/or the Kimberley to discuss this strategic package and how we can work with your government to deliver positive social and economic outcomes across the Kimberley region. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time for us to meet.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel  
Chair  
Kimberley Regional Group  
*Attach*



Attachment 9 Correspondence Out: The Hon Roger Cook MLA Premier; Vision for the Kimberley



The Hon Roger Cook  
 Premier  
 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Dumas House  
 2 Havelock Street  
 West Perth WA 6005

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

5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Premier

**Vision for the Kimberley**

Congratulations on the release of WA Labor’s Vision for the Kimberley, which builds on success and prepares the Kimberley for the future.

The Kimberley Regional Group is pleased to see a pipeline of investment to help the Kimberley reach its full potential. Investment in economic infrastructure including water, ports, roads, energy, education, arts and culture and health is critical for our region’s development.

Also, we are delighted to see investment under a Cook Labor Government allocated to the Water Lily Place Housing Project in Kununurra, a Playground and Water Park in Halls Creek, a Multi-purpose Centre at Fitzroy Crossing and a safe night space in Kununurra. These will make a significant difference to the liveability of these communities.

We would like to present for your consideration a range of opportunities which will drive a shared vision for the Kimberley. These opportunities will create jobs, keep our economy strong and contribute towards Closing the Gap. They are designed to accelerate the rate of positive economic and social change across the Kimberley, delivering enduring value for our region, its people and the State. These opportunities include -

**Kimberley Housing Pipeline** – \$244M five-year program to deliver 311 new homes and release 950 residential lots across the Kimberley, leveraging land and private investment.

**Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package** – \$51,167,500 over three years for evidence-based initiatives to prevent crime, keep our communities safer and to make our communities a more attractive place for business investment and tourism.

Project	Investment Sought
Kimberley Community Action Fund for place-based initiatives	\$5.5M
Improved Street Lighting in Broome and Kununurra	\$3.478M
New Public CCTV Infrastructure and maintenance activities	\$11.262M
Community Safety and Crime Prevention officers	\$3.282.5M
A review of Aboriginal Community by-Laws and Constitutions	\$3M
A suite of place-based youth diversionary programs across the region.	\$23.425M
A Sharps Collection and Clean up in Broome	\$600K
Vandalism Initiatives in Kununurra	\$350K
Security Rebates in Broome and Kununurra	\$270K



### Investment in place-based initiatives

We are pleased to present a suite of place-based initiatives for your consideration that will drive social and economic development and support the livability of Kimberley towns. This investment will unlock value, leveraging investment from government and the private sector.

Project	Investment sought
Tanami Road Activation Plan	\$700K
Tanami Road – Economic infrastructure and services	\$70M
Halls Creek Business Park	\$70M
Welcome to WA Centre, Kununurra	\$30M
Halls Creek Old Town Eco Tourist Park	\$20M
Fitzroy Crossing Airport and Access Road	\$40M
East Kimberley Regional Airport New Arrivals Terminal Building	\$20M
Halls Creek Airport and Aviation Services Expansion	\$60M
Derby Wharf Precinct Masterplan and Redevelopment	\$2M
Broome Regional Aquatic Centre Redevelopment	\$21.4M
Halls Creek Civic and Cultural Centre and Multi-purpose Evacuation Centre	\$50M
Fitzroy Crossing Multipurpose Complex and Evacuation Centre	\$25.2M
Broome Boating Facility	\$42M
Wyndham Playground and Splash Park	\$3M
Regional Resource and Recovery Park, Broome	\$21.8M
Halls Creek Recreation Centre and Oval Facilities Upgrade.	\$30M

Please find attached additional information on these projects. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Vision for the Kimberley and how together we can deliver new investment to support our region to develop and thrive.

Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in contact with your office to arrange a time to meet. Congratulations again on your Vision for the Kimberley. We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely



David Menzel  
Chair  
cc Divina D'Anna MLA, Member for the Kimberley

Attach.

## Attachment 10 Correspondence Out: The Hon Roger Cook MLA Leader of the WA Labor Party; Vision for the Kimberley



The Hon Roger Cook  
Leader of the WA Labor Party

Via email - [kwinana@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:kwinana@mp.wa.gov.au)

12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Premier

### Vision for the Kimberley

Congratulations on the release of WA Labor's Vision for the Kimberley, which builds on success and prepares the Kimberley for the future.

The Kimberley Regional Group is pleased to see a pipeline of investment to help the Kimberley reach its full potential. Investment in economic infrastructure including water, ports, roads, energy, education, arts and culture and health is critical for our region's development.

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**Kimberley Housing Pipeline** – A \$244M five-year program to deliver 311 new homes and release 950 residential lots across the Kimberley, leveraging land and private investment.

**Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package** – A \$51,417,500 three year program of evidence-based initiatives to prevent crime, keep our communities safer and to make our communities a more attractive place for business investment and tourism.

Project	Investment Sought
Kimberley Community Action Fund for place-based initiatives	\$5.5M
Improved Street Lighting in Broome and Kununurra	\$3.478M
New Public CCTV Infrastructure and maintenance activities	\$11.512M
Community Safety and Crime Prevention officers	\$3.282.5M
A review of Aboriginal Community by-Laws and Constitutions	\$3M
A suite of place-based youth diversionary programs across the region.	\$23.425M
A Sharps Collection and Clean up in Broome	\$600K
Vandalism Initiatives in Kununurra	\$350K
Security Rebates in Broome and Kununurra	\$270K





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Please find attached additional information on these projects. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Vision for the Kimberley and how together we can deliver new investment to support our region to develop and thrive.

Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in contact with your office to arrange a time to meet. Congratulations again on your Vision for the Kimberley. We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely



David Menzel  
Chair  
cc Divina D'Anna MLA, Member for the Kimberley

*Attach.*

Attachment 11 Correspondence Out: Ms Libby Mettam MLA; Unlocking the Kimberley



Ms Libby Mettam MLA  
 Leader of the WA Liberal Party  
 PO Box 516  
 Busselton WA 6280

Via email - libby.mettam@mp.wa.gov.au

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Ms Mettam

**Unlocking the Kimberley**

The Kimberley Regional Group would like to present for your consideration a range of opportunities which will create jobs, keep our economy strong, build new homes, keep our communities safer and improve the amenity and liveability of our regional towns.

These initiatives are designed to accelerate the scale and pace of positive economic and social change across the Kimberley. They will deliver enduring value for our region, its people and for the State. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the support of the WA Liberal Party for these regional initiatives. These opportunities include -

**Kimberley Housing Pipeline** – A \$244M five-year program to deliver 311 new homes and release 950 residential lots across the Kimberley, leveraging land and private investment.

**Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package** – A \$51,417,500 three year program of evidence-based initiatives to prevent crime, keep our communities safer and to make our communities a more attractive place for business investment and tourism.

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Please find attached additional information on these projects. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these projects and how together we can deliver new investment to support our regions to develop and thrive.

Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in contact with your office to arrange a time to meet. We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely



David Menzel  
Chair

*Attach.*

Attachment 12 Correspondence Out: Mr Shane Love MLA; Unlocking the Kimberley



Mr Shane Love MLA  
 Leader of the Nationals WA  
 PO Box 216  
 Dongara WA 6525

Via email - [shane.love@loop.wa.gov.au](mailto:shane.love@loop.wa.gov.au)

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Mr Love

**Unlocking the Kimberley**

The Kimberley Regional Group would like to present for your consideration a range of opportunities which will create jobs, keep our economy strong, build homes, keep our communities safer and improve the amenity and liveability of our regional towns.

These initiatives are designed to accelerate the scale and pace of positive economic and social change across the Kimberley. They will deliver enduring value for our region, its people and for the State. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the support of the National Party WA or these regional initiatives. These opportunities include -

**Kimberley Housing Pipeline** – A \$244M five-year program to deliver 311 new homes and release 950 residential lots across the Kimberley, leveraging land and private investment.

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Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in contact with your office to arrange a time to meet. We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely



David Menzel  
Chair

*Attach.*

## 6. Financial Report

### Item for Noting

**Submitted by: Vernon Lawrence, KRG Secretariat**

**Attachment 13: Kimberley Regional Group Interim Financial Report to 31 December 2024**

**Attachment 14: Kimberley Regional Group Annual Budget 2024-2025 - Amended**

### 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 December 2024. 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 2024/25 Financial year at the meeting on 23 August 2024. At this meeting an interim report relating to the finances for the financial year to 30 June 2024 was approved by the KRG. The report reflected a surplus for the year over budget of \$67,513 and a cash balance of \$329,989. These figures were based on estimates available at the time of drafting the report. After processing data for the financial year end the surplus for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 has been revised up to \$80,802 and the cash balance to be carried forward to the 2024/2025 financial year revised up to \$343,278. The main reason for revising the data is due to the allocation of interest. Interest was estimated initially at \$3,069 for the financial year and after the year end allocations this has been revised to \$14,858. Refer to Attachment 2 to this report.

This report is for the financial activity for Quarter 2 of the 2024/25 financial year. Quarterly reports will be 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 \$180,120 which is represented by a cash balance held in a Reserve with the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. This amount is low due to the invoices for members contribution not being sent out at the time of the drafting of this report. Total members contributions to be collected is \$180,000.

Operating expenses for the year to date total \$163,158. This includes project work and Canberra trip expenses. The Canberra trip expenses include a contribution by the KRG for members to attend the Regional Australia Institute Conference and associated expenses for the secretariat to attend meetings. These amounts were not budgeted for in the original budget but members agreed the disbursement to attend the conference and meetings in Parliament House.



Project expenses for the year to date total \$74,329 and comprise the following:

Benchmarking report	\$ 5,945 (budget \$15,000)
Election Document & Strategy	\$ 17,009 (budget \$7,600)
FA Grants	\$ 24,188 (budget \$24,500)
Fringe Benefits Tax policy paper	\$ 2,000 (no Budget)
Community safety	\$ 7,688 (Budget \$18,000)
Housing Roundtable	\$ 17,500 (no budget)

The budget for the financial year is \$50,000. This was determined by estimating the original budget approved for project work of \$65,000 less expenses during the 2023/24 financial year of \$14,371. The \$65,000 was comprised of \$20,000 from the original 2023/24 budget plus an amount of \$45,000 from reserves. An additional disbursement will be requested from reserves to formally fully fund the project work once the projects underway are completed.

## CONSULTATION

Nil.

## STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

*Local Government Act 1995*

## Financial Implications

As at the 31 December 2024 the Kimberley Regional Group cash balance \$180,120 and members contributions to be invoiced of \$180,000. Once collected this will return the reserve to a healthy cash balance.

For the period ending 31 December 2024 Expenses of \$163,158 were paid against a year-to-date budget of \$114,250. No disbursements have been made against a number of expense items. An amount of \$74,329 has been disbursed for Projects against a year-to-date budget of \$25,000. The reasons for the difference have been detailed above. Two projects undertaken did not have a budget allocation but were undertaken with the consent of the members totalling \$19,500. Three projects have costs outstanding and work still to be completed during the financial year.

The year-to-date budget income is \$114,250 while the actual income is NIL due to members contributions not being invoiced and interest on the reserve account not yet determined.

The year-to-date actual budget deficit is \$163,158.

The total Kimberley Regional Group cash balance at 31 December 2024 is \$180,120 which represents the total of the Members interests at that date.

## 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	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">                     People Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Advocate</b>   Facilitate Partner   Fund Promote   <b>Monitor</b> </div>		
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p><b>That the Kimberley Regional Group notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. the Interim Financial Report to 31 December 2024;</b></li> <li><b>2. the \$163,158 year to date budget surplus;</b></li> <li><b>3. members contributions totalling \$180,000 will be invoiced during Q3; and</b></li> <li><b>4. the total member interests of \$180,120 at 31 December 2024 is represented by cash held in Reserves.</b></li> </ol>			
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

Attachment 13: Kimberley Regional Group Interim Financial Report to 31 December 2024

Kimberley Regional Group - Interim Financial Activity Statement for the period ending 31 December 2024	Annual Budget 2024/25	Adjusted Annual Budget 2024/25	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Kimberley Regional Group - Zone & RCG Meeting Expenses	6,000	6,000	3,000	3,747
Kimberley Regional Group - Canberra Delegation Expenses	10,000	10,000	5,000	21,104
Kimberley Regional Group - Annual Financial Audit	5,000	5,000	2,500	-
Kimberley Regional Group - IT Support	1,000	1,000	500	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Sundry Expenses	1,000	1,000	500	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Policy creation	4,000	4,000	2,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Website upgrade	2,000	2,000	1,000	660
Kimberley Regional Group - Projects	50,000	50,000	25,000	74,329
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy	139,500	139,500	69,750	63,318
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy - reimbursable costs	5,000	5,000	2,500	-
Kimberley Regional Group - North West Defence Alliance	5,000	5,000	2,500	-
	<u>228,500</u>	<u>228,500</u>	<u>114,250</u>	<u>163,158</u>
<b>Income</b>				
Kimberley Regional Group - Reimbursement Zone & RCG Meetings Expenses - Op Inc	- 2,000	- 2,000	- 1,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Members Contribution Secretariat Costs - Op Inc	- 180,000	- 180,000	- 90,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Disbursement from Reserve.	- 43,500	- 43,500	- 21,750	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Interest on Reserve - Op Inc.	- 3,000	- 3,000	- 1,500	-
	<u>- 228,500</u>	<u>- 228,500</u>	<u>- 114,250</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,158</u>
<b>Opening Cash Balance</b>	<b>343,278</b>	<b>343,278</b>	<b>343,278</b>	<b>343,278</b>
<b>Outstanding Contributions</b>				
<b>Appropriation from Reserve</b>	<b>- 43,500</b>	<b>- 43,500</b>	<b>- 21,750</b>	
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<u><b>299,778</b></u>	<u><b>299,778</b></u>	<u><b>321,528</b></u>	<u><b>180,120</b></u>

Attachment 14: Kimberley Regional Group Annual Budget 2024-2025 - Amended

<b>Kimberley Regional Group - Proposed Annual Budget for the period ending 30 June 2025</b>	<b>Annual Budget 2023/24</b>	<b>Interim Actual 2023/24</b>	<b>Annual Budget 2024/25</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Kimberley Regional Group - Zone & RCG Meeting Expenses	6,000	1,102	6,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Canberra Delegation Expenses	7,000	9,000	10,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Annual Financial Audit	6,000	5,000	5,000
Kimberley Regional Group - IT Support	1,000	-	1,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Sundry Expenses	1,000	-	1,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Policy creation	4,000	-	4,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Website upgrade	2,000	2,178	2,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Projects	65,000	14,371	50,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy	120,000	125,873	139,500
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy - reimbursable costs	8,000	4,031	5,000
Kimberley Regional Group - North West Defence Alliance	10,000	-	5,000
	<b>230,000</b>	<b>161,556</b>	<b>228,500</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Kimberley Regional Group - Reimbursement Zone & RCG Meetings Expenses - Op Inc	- 2,000	- 2,500	- 2,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Members Contribution Secretariat Costs - Op Inc	- 180,000	- 225,000	- 180,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Disbursement from Reserve.	- 45,000	-	- 43,500
Kimberley Regional Group - Interest on Reserve - Op Inc.	- 3,000	- 14,858	- 3,000
	<b>- 230,000</b>	<b>- 242,358</b>	<b>- 228,500</b>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>- -</b>	<b>80,802</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Opening Cash Balance</b>	<b>262,476</b>	<b>262,476</b>	<b>343,278</b>
<b>Outstanding Contributions</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Appropriation from Reserve</b>	<b>- 45,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 43,500</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>262,476</b>	<b>343,278</b>	<b>299,778</b>



## 7. Formal Presentations

### Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

### Purpose

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

### Attendees

Time	Name	Position	Organisation
10:45 – 11:00am	John Hutchison	Superintendent	Kimberley District Office WA Police
11:00 – 11:15am	Divina D’Anna MLA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Tourism.	

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:	Budget Implications			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <b>People</b> Place Prosperity Performance                 </td> <td> <b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> Promote                 </td> <td> <b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>People</b> Place Prosperity Performance	<b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> Promote	<b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b>	Nil
<b>People</b> Place Prosperity Performance	<b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> Promote	<b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b>		
Resolution/s	Action(s)			
<b>For noting</b>	EO to reach out and invite Hon Melissa MP to a KRG meeting.  EO to keep KRG members informed about any upcoming meetings with politicians. Members to notify the EO if they wish to attend accordingly.			

## 8. Financial Assistance Grants Review Project

### Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 15: KRG Financial Assistance Grant Report (separately attached)

Attachment 16: Financial Assistant Grants Position Paper

### Purpose

To approve the release of the KRG Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) Review and stakeholders for release.

### In summary

- A RFQ was issued by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley on behalf of the KRG to undertake a Review of the Financial Assistants Grant, which was awarded to NAJA Business Consulting.
- The Financial Assistance Grant Report is finished.
- The Report contains eight recommendations for the Australian Government and seven for the WA Government. In addition, there are recommendations for the Shires of Broome and Wyndham East Kimberley.
- A Position Paper has been developed based on the review findings.
- Once approved for release and distributed to key Stakeholders the report will be uploaded onto the KRG Website with a media release issued and a Linked In Post.

### Background

- Whilst the roles and responsibilities of local government have grown significantly over time, its revenue base has not. A number of councils, particularly in the Perth Metro region, have the means to recover sufficient revenue to cover their expenses without relying on grants. However, like other remote areas in Western Australia, Kimberley councils have limited revenue-raising capacity to maintain or upgrade critical infrastructure or provide the level of services required and therefore remain dependent on grant funding.
- The current methodology delivers funding results that end to favour higher population centres with a greater ability to raise funds as opposed to regional areas with limited ability to raise funds.
- The Report presents recommendations for changes to the quantum of funding, the policy and allocation of the FAGs methodology to better support the principle of horizontal equalisation enabling rural and regional Councils to become more financially sustainable.

### Details

The following are the Report's recommendations are proposed to improve the FA grant model for the Kimberley local governments:

- That the KRG advocate for the **Australian Government** to:
  - ✓ review the **quantum of the Financial Assistance Grant**. Consideration be given to increasing the total Financial Assistance Grant pool to at least 1% Commonwealth Tax Revenue to ensure sustainable funding for local governments, especially in regional and

remote areas and restoration of the Financial Assistance Grant funding lost following the 2014-15 to 2016-17 indexation freeze

- ✓ develop an **appropriate indexation methodology** to ensure that Financial Assistance Grants keep up with the cost pressures faced by local governments, whilst also providing consistency to the funding to enable local governments to better forward plan and budget
  - ✓ '**reset the payment cycle**' with an additional once-off payment to correct the current practice of bringing payments forward and then implement a standard payment schedule that doesn't change each year.
  - ✓ change the method of **distribution of funds to the States** from the current method, which is primarily based on population, to one that will enable every local government to provide a similar level of service to their community by considering factors beyond population size.
  - ✓ Consider the guiding principle of **Effort Neutrality** in the allocation of funds.
  - ✓ review the National Principle relating to **Minimum Grant Funding**. Consideration should be given to either removing the 30% requirement or allowing state or territory grant commissions to adjust the minimum grant percentage based on need. For example, a range between 10% and 30% could be established. Reducing or eliminating the 30% minimum would enable a greater allocation of funds to local governments that need it most to achieve horizontal equalisation
  - ✓ strengthen the National Principle for **Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders** to make it explicit that the needs of Aboriginal people must be recognised in equalisation assessments and to take into account the number of remote Aboriginal communities in a State or Territory when distributing the FA Grant funding.
  - ✓ change the minimum grant principle to be "ensuring a local government's combined General Purpose Grant and Local Road Grant cannot be less than 30% of the amount it would have received if the Grant were calculated on a per capita basis".
- That the KRG advocate for the **Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission** to:
    - ✓ review the Aboriginality cost adjustor calculation
    - ✓ provide feedback from the Commission on the inclusion of Aboriginal Communities into the population dispersion calculations
    - ✓ review the population dispersion calculation to consider the asset base required by local governments with additional townsites
    - ✓ review the climate cost adjustor to consider the wet season rainfall impacts and humidity in the calculation, and review the population weighting
    - ✓ review the location cost adjustor weighting to increase the weighting based on the ARIA+ score and reduce the weighting attributed to population, i.e. 80% based on the ARIA+ score and 20% based on population
    - ✓ review the socio-economic cost adjustor so that only local governments with an ARIA+ score of more than 4 are eligible.
    - ✓ include the capacity of a local government to raise its own funds for road renewal works
  - Shires of Broome and SWEK make a submission to the WA Grants Commission to be classified as Regional Centres

- That the KRG ensure accurate information is provided to the Grants Commission when requested as part of their annual return to ensure their grant allocation is adjusted accordingly
- Consideration of additional loading for disaster relief funding requirements for local governments in high risk areas

The KRG recognizes that some recommendations, especially adjustments to minimum grant allocations, could have unforeseen negative effects on other WA local governments. To address this, the KRG supports a graduated implementation of any changes. For example, if the Australian Government decides to expand the funding pool and revise the minimum grant allocations, the KRG would advocate for preserving the previous year's minimum grant amounts for local governments currently receiving them. This approach would allow any additional funds added to the National FA Grant pool to be allocated to non-minimum grant recipients in future years, whilst ensuring that local governments with minimum grants remain unaffected in the short term.

### Key stakeholders for report release

The following are the key stakeholders that will receive a copy of the Report. A media release will be issued once stakeholders have received the Report, along with a Linked In Post and the report being uploaded to the KRG website.

Stakeholder	Position
Hon Kristy McBain MP	Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
Melissa Price MP	Federal Member for Durack
Glenn Sterle	Senator for WA
Patrick Gorman MP	Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, Assistant Minister for the Public Service, and Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General
Mr. Michael Callaghan AM PSM	Chair Commonwealth Grants Commission
Amy Crawford	CEO ALGA
Hon Hannah Beazley MLA	Minister for Local Government
Hon Rita Saffiotti	Treasurer
Hon Divina D'Anna	Member for the Kimberley
Hon Don Punch MLA	Minister for Regional Development
Libby Mettam MLA	Leader of the Liberal Party
Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Opposition
Steve Martin MLC	Shadow Treasurer
Neil Thompson MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Lanie Chopping	DG Department of Local Government
Michael Barnes	Under Treasurer
Luke Stevens	A/Chair WA Grants Commission
Nick Sloan	CEO WALGA


## Risk


- **Financial:** Without an increase in Financial Assistance Grants it will become increasingly difficult for Kimberley Councils to undertake core operational functions
- **Reputational:** A review of Financial Assistance Grants will indicate to State and Federal Governments that the KRG are actively considering ways to ensure that they are financially sustainable.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>                     People Place Prosperity Performance                 </td> <td>                     Advocate Partner Promote                 </td> <td>                     Facilitate Fund Monitor                 </td> </tr> </table>		People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	As per project budget	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor				
Resolution/s		Action(s)				
<p><b>That the KRG approve the Financial Assistance Grant Report and endorse its release.</b></p>		Executive Officer to distribute the report to key stakeholders, upload it to the KRG website, issue a media release, and create a LinkedIn post.				
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer			
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate			
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0					



## Attachment 16: Financial Assistance Grants Position Paper





THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

# POSITION PAPER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

## NOVEMBER 2024

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### ABOUT THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

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

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### CONTEXT

A Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) is funding provided by the Australian Federal Government to Local Governments to support the delivery of essential services and infrastructure. The two components are:

- 1. General Purpose Component: Distributed to States and Territories based on population, providing flexible funding for Local Governments to use according to their specific requirements.**
- 2. Identified Local Road Component: Allocations based on historical shares, specifically supporting the maintenance and development of local roads.**

The grant's value has declined over time, as it is now only 0.5% of Commonwealth Tax Revenue (CTR), compared to the original 2% of Federal Governments personal income tax revenue, then 1% CTR. Freezes on grant indexation (2014-2017) further compounded this problem.

This reduction has negatively impacted Local Governments, particularly in remote areas, because of the following reasons:

**Dependence on Grants:** Remote Local Governments, in particular, rely heavily on FA Grants for revenue as they have limited capacity to raise their own source revenue. For example, grants constitute 67% of revenue for the Shire of Halls Creek, far above the national average of 14%.

**High Costs of Service Delivery:** Infrastructure and services are significantly more expensive in remote areas to deliver; for example, construction costs in Kununurra are at least 60% higher than in metropolitan Perth, and up to 400% when working remotely from town centres.

KRG Position Papers 2024 | [www.kimberleyrg.com.au](http://www.kimberleyrg.com.au)



A report commissioned by the Kimberley Regional Group identified Equalisation and Allocation Issues with FA Grants:

The current funding does not cover assessed needs; in 2023-24, only 64% of the funding needs in Western Australia were met.

The population-based allocation favours densely populated states, whilst the minimum grant principle diverts funds from higher-need Local Governments.

## OBJECTIVE

- » **To propose improvements to the FA Grant model to both the Australian Government and the WA Grants Commission which addresses the inequitable assessment of regional and remote Local Government's equalisation requirements.**

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principals should inform a proposed adjustment to the current FA Grant model:

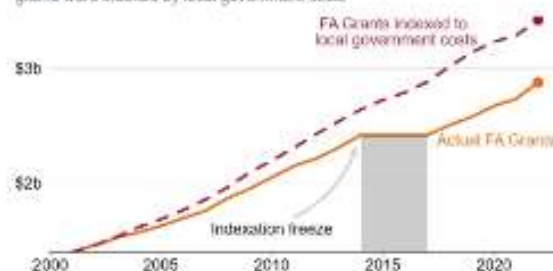
- State and Federal Governments be open to exploring revised grant allocations which are more aligned to genuine horizontal equalisation principals and deliver parity between like for like Councils across jurisdictions
- Cost per capita to deliver essential serves in sparsely populated areas should be taken into consideration
- Appropriate recognition of the needs of remote First Nation communities
- FA grant adjustments be implemented in a staged way and in a manner which does not impact negatively on any Local Government in the short term

## POLICY PRIORITIES

The following recommendations are proposed to improve the FA grant model for the Kimberley Local Governments:

- **That the Australian Government:**
  - » review the quantum of the Financial Assistance Grant. Consideration be given to increasing the total Financial Assistance Grant pool to at least 1% Commonwealth Tax Revenue to ensure a more sustainable funding pool for Local Governments and restoration of the Financial Assistance Grant funding lost following the 2014-15 to 2016-17 indexation freeze
  - » develop an appropriate indexation methodology to ensure that Financial Assistance Grants keep up with the cost pressures faced by Local Governments, whilst also providing consistency to the funding to enable Local Governments to better forward plan and budget
  - » 'reset the payment cycle' with an additional once-off payment to correct the current practice of bringing payments forward and then implement a standard payment schedule that doesn't change each year.

Value of the Financial Assistance Grants (2001-2022). Actual versus if grants were indexed by local government costs

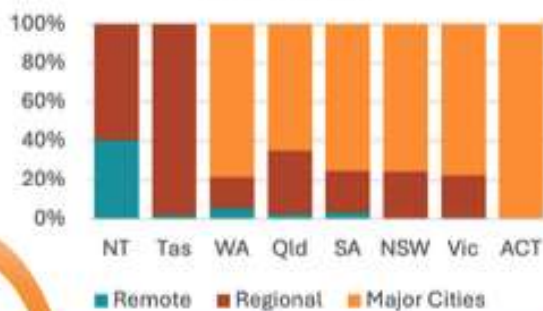






- change the method of distribution of funds to the States from the current method, which is primarily based on population, to one that will enable every Local Government to provide a similar level of service to their community by considering factors beyond population size.
  - reconsider the guiding principle of Effort Neutrality in the allocation of funds.
  - review the National Principle relating to Minimum Grant Funding. Consideration should be given to either removing or reducing the 30% requirement or allowing state or territory grant commissions to adjust the minimum grant percentage based on need. For example, a range between 10% and 30% could be established.
  - Reducing or eliminating the 30% minimum would enable a greater allocation of funds to Local Governments that need it most to achieve horizontal equalisation
  - strengthen the National Principle for Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders to make it explicit that the needs of Aboriginal people must be recognised in equalisation assessments and to take into account the number of remote Aboriginal communities in a State or Territory when distributing the FA Grant funding.
  - change the minimum grant principle to be “ensuring a local government’s combined General Purpose Grant and Local Road Grant cannot be less than 30% of the amount it would have received if the Grant were calculated on a per capita basis”
- **That the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission:**
    - review the Aboriginality cost adjustor calculation
    - provide feedback from the Commission on the inclusion of Aboriginal Communities into the population dispersion calculations
    - review the population dispersion calculation to consider the asset base required by Local Governments with additional townsites
    - review the climate cost adjustor to consider the wet season rainfall impacts and humidity in the calculation, and review the population weighting
    - review the location cost adjustor weighting to increase the weighting based on the ARIA+ score and reduce the weighting attributed to population, i.e. 80% based on the ARIA+ score and 20% based on population
    - review the socio-economic cost adjustor so that only Local Governments with an ARIA+ score of more than 4 are eligible.
    - include the capacity of a Local Government to raise its own funds for road renewal works
    - Consideration of additional loading for disaster relief funding requirements for Local Governments in high risk areas

Share of Population by Remoteness and State 2021



FA Grant per capita by Remote Councils 2021







**Case Study: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (WA) versus Cobar Shire (NSW)**

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Cobar Shire
8,209 people 43.5% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	4,078 people 33% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
ABS Remoteness Area - Very Remote 121,000 sq km (Size) 800km from Darwin	ABS Remoteness Area - Very Remote 45,579 sq km (size) 650km from Dubbo
SEIFA Score 934 SEIFA Rank 192	SEIFA Score 937 SEIFA Rank 203
2,802 Rateable properties	2,502 rateable properties
2 airports	1 airport
2 swimming pools 2 public libraries	1 swimming pool 1 public library

Examining the 2022-23 General Purpose Grant figures, the average funding per capita for remote Local Governments in NSW was \$1,742.85. The average funding per capita for the Kimberley Local Governments was \$515.84.

**In 2022-23, the Cobar Shire in NSW, received \$5,150,785 in General Purpose funding, equating to \$1,180.02 per capita. In contrast, the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK), received \$2,733,635, or \$372.58 per capita.**

Despite both shires both being classified as Very Remote, having similar SIEFA scores and a comparable number of rateable properties, Cobar's per capita General Purpose funding was three times higher than SWEK's.

Additionally, SWEK's larger area (121,000 km<sup>2</sup> vs. Cobar's 45,579 km<sup>2</sup>) also requires more infrastructure, including two airports, two swimming pools and two libraries, compared to Cobar's single facilities.

**ENDNOTES**

Sources: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts 2023a, The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies 2023, ABS 1999, Grattan Institute 2023.  
 Analysis of FA Grants inequation from Grattan Institute. Source: Grattan Institute - Potholes and Pitfalls How to fix local roads report 2023.  
 Analysis of GA Grants by Remoteness and State 2021. Source: Grattan Institute 2023.

## 9. Community Safety & Crime Prevention Investment Package

### Item for Decision

**Submitted by: Executive Team**

**Attachment 17a: Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package**

**Attachment 17b: Draft KRG Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package (separately attached)**

### Purpose

To approve the KRG community safety and crime prevention investment package.

### In summary

- A RFQ was issued by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley on behalf of the KRG to develop this Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package, which was awarded to NAJA Business Consulting.
- The package is informed by desktop research, stakeholder engagement, and priority community safety and crime prevention projects from each Shire.
- It was hoped that economic modelling on the cost of crime to Kimberley councils could be included in this report. This could not be done as only one Council provided their expenditure data.
- It was hoped that there would be a range of case studies in the report showing the work undertaken by Kimberley Councils. Only one Council provided a case study for the Report.
- \$51,417,500 over three years is sought for investment. Note this is different to the requested funding in the Pre-Budget Submission sent to Federal Treasury as the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley provided revised figures after the Treasury Submission was sent.
- \$11.512M of the package is for CCTV - A re-elected Cook Labor Government has committed to invest \$407K for 20 additional CCTV cameras in priority Kimberley locations, a New Regional Policing Incentive Program to keep more officers in regional WA and \$1 million for the Kununurra and Broome Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC)<sup>1</sup>.
- There is the opportunity to create an Executive Summary of this document for advocacy purposes once approved.

### Background

- The Kimberley region has seen a rise in the rate of crime which has resulted in increased expenditure for local governments. In response, many local authorities have implemented crime prevention strategies and had to replace stolen or damaged assets placing pressure on budgets.
- The investment package is based on feedback from Councils, WA Police and research on the best practice.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rogercook.com.au/media/wa-labor-s-cctv-and-policing-boost-to-keep-the-kimberley-safe>

## Details

\$51.417M over three years is sought for this investment in security rebates, security patrols, CCTV, street lighting and youth diversionary activities. This is for activities as follows:

- \$5.5M – Kimberley Community Action Fund
- \$3.478M – Improved Street Lighting
- \$11.512M – Public CCTV Infrastructure and maintenance costs
- \$2.282.5M for Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officers
- \$3M – Review of Aboriginal Community by-Laws and Constitutions
- \$23.425M – Youth Diversionary Programs
- \$600K – Sharps Collection and Clean up
- \$350K for vandalism initiatives
- \$270K – Security Rebates

The allocation for funding under this package is as follows -

- \$5.5M – whole of Kimberley
- \$5.930.5M – Shire of Broome
- \$9.7M – Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- \$16.9M – Shire of Halls Creek
- \$14.057M – Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

## Risk

- **Reputational:** Ongoing damage caused by vandalism/property crime, impact on the reputation of Shires and communities as safe and attractive places to live, work and invest
- **Financial:** Without additional funding, Shires will continue to be out of pocket for crime prevention strategies.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<p>People Place Prosperity Performance</p>	<p>Advocate Partner Promote</p> <p>Facilitate Fund Monitor</p>	<p>\$1,600 plus printing will be required if a desktop published Executive Summary is to be produced.</p>	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p><b>That the KRG</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Approve the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package.</b></li> <li><b>Approve the development of the desktop published Executive Summary</b></li> </ol>		<p>Executive Officer to proceed with the development of the desktop published Executive Summary of this document for advocacy purposes.</p>	
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

## Attachment 17a: Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Kimberley Community Action Fund - 3 years</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>
<b>Street Lighting</b>	
Bright Lights Program (entire Broome Townsite)	\$2,278,000
Upgraded street lighting at crime hotspots, Kununurra	\$1,200,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,478,000</b>
<b>Public CCTV Infrastructure</b>	
Broome Public Infrastructure CCTV (five-year annual upgrade and maintenance cost totalling \$866,000, along with \$250,000 for the installation of CCTV infrastructure at Cable Beach)	\$1,410,000
Derby Public Infrastructure CCTV - 14 new cameras and system upgrade	\$1,100,000
Derby Public Infrastructure CCTV - five-year annual upgrade and maintenance costs	\$1,000,000
Fitzroy Crossing Public Infrastructure CCTV - 7 new cameras	\$400,000
Fitzroy Crossing Public Infrastructure CCTV - five-year annual upgrade and maintenance costs	\$600,000
Public Infrastructure CCTV - 20 new cameras and system upgrade Halls Creek	\$1,500,000
Public Infrastructure CCTV - five-year annual upgrade and maintenance costs Halls Creek	\$750,000
Public Infrastructure CCTV - expansion of network to include WAPOL priorities such as entrances to town, new locations for camera's, Kununurra	3,000,000
Public Infrastructure CCTV - support of current system, operating costs and planned renewals on average per year. (3 years), Kununurra and Wyndham	252,000
Public Infrastructure CCTV - expansion of network and include monitor access in police station, Wyndham	1,500,000
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$11,512,000</b>
<b>Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officers</b>	
Additional 2 FTE Community Safety Officers (\$210,000 per year) Broome	\$630,000
Light vehicle running costs associated with Community Safety Officer Position (\$17,500 per year) Broome	\$52,500
Purchase of Dual Cab 4x4 Ute for Community Safety Officer Position Broome	\$60,000
Community Safety Officers x 4 (3 years) Halls Creek	\$800,000
Purchase of 2 Troop Carriers for Community Safety Officer positions Halls Creek	\$240,000
Security Patrols to assist with prevention of anti-social behaviour in town centre - includes public drinking, littering, aggressive behaviour etc. Kununurra	\$1,500,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,282,500</b>



<b>Review of remote Aboriginal community By-Laws and Corporation Constitutions to embed community safety and crime prevention</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
<b>Youth diversionary activities</b>	
Sporting Chance (3 year funding request \$250,000 per year)	\$750,000
Immediate Response Youth Night Space and patrol Derby	\$6,000,000
Youth sport and recreation co-ordinator Fitzroy Crossing (3 years)	\$600,000
Halls Creek Immediate Response Youth Night Space and patrol (3 years)	\$6,000,000
Youth sport and recreation co-ordinator (3 years) and afternoon programs Halls Creek	\$600,000
Youth and Recreation Officers x 2 (3 years) Halls Creek	\$600,000
Purchase of 2 Troop Carriers for Youth Officer positions Halls Creek	\$240,000
Establishment of PCYC, staffing and oncosts Halls Creek	\$2,500,000
Immediate Response Youth Night Space and patrol (3 years) Kununurra	\$6,000,000
Youth recreation officer and afternoon programs Wyndham	\$135,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$23,425,000</b>
<b>Sharps collection and clean up (\$200,000 per year)</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>Vandalism repairs</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>Security Rebate Scheme</b>	
3 year program Broome	\$150,000
3 year program Kununurra	\$120,000
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$51,417,500</b>

## 10. Kimberley Housing Pipeline Project

### Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

**Attachment 18: Overview Indicative Kimberley Housing Pipeline by Town**

### Purpose

To provide an update on the Kimberley Housing Pipeline and to seek advice on whether any key projects are missing or need to be removed.

### In summary

- The Kimberley Housing Pipeline is an outcome of the Kimberley Roundtable which was held in Broome on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- Housing Australia requested an indicative list of shovel ready Kimberley projects which was provided in September 2024
- Subsequent discussions with the Federal Minister for Housing and Housing Australia staff indicate they are giving thought to a rural and regional funding round.
- The Pipeline is a co-ordinated package of works across the Kimberley which will: deliver 311 Homes: release 970 residential lots: and cost \$244.6M
- The WA Government's Housing Supply Unit supports the pipeline approach and is keen to understand demand data and project timelines to understand when government investment will be required.
- A document is under development with information on housing demand, and further project information such as project timeframes for presentation to State and Federal Housing Ministers.
- Information has been requested from Councils to inform the implementation of the package.

### Background

- As above

### Details

The Pipeline is a co-ordinated package of works across the Kimberley which will: .

- Deliver 311 new homes
- Release 970 residential lots
- Cost \$244.6M

The benefit of the pipeline is that it will:

- Increase housing supply supporting worker attraction and retention, support better health and education outcomes and the liveability of Kimberley towns.
- Support emissions reduction through renewable technologies and building design
- Leverage expertise and funds
- Delivers economies of scale
- Unlock private investment by de-risking business investment
- Create new jobs, and a pipeline of work for apprentices and trainees
- Support local businesses

## Risk

- **Reputational:** If there are no outcomes from the Kimberley Housing Roundtable

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>                     People Place Prosperity Performance                 </td> <td>                     Advocate Partner Promote                 </td> <td>                     Facilitate Fund Monitor                 </td> </tr> </table>		People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	Nil	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor				
Resolution/s		Action(s)				
That the KRG note the progress of the Kimberley Housing Pipeline.		Executive Team to continue advocacy for the Kimberley Housing Pipeline.				
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	KRG members and Executive team			
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Halls Creek	<b>Due date:</b>	ASAP			
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0					

**Attachment 18: Overview Indicative Kimberley Housing Pipeline by Town**

Proponent	Project	Project Status	Proponent Contribution	Investment sought
Shire of Broome	Sanctuary Village – 91 affordable homes	Shovel ready	\$7.6M	\$25M
Shire of Broome	McMahon Estate – 120 Affordable/Social/Private	Subdivision, headworks and 48 affordable and key worker homes	Brokering Land	\$36.2M
Shire of Broome	14 affordable rentals	Shovel ready	\$3.5M	\$8.6M
Nyamba Buru Yawuru	Birragun Buru Estate Stage 2 – 12 homes	Shovel ready	Land	\$7M
Nyamba Buru Yawuru	Lot 502 Gubinge Road – 650 /750 block land release	Planning and headworks	Land	\$15M
Nyamba Buru Yawuru	Specialist Disability Accommodation –10 affordable homes	Shovel ready	Land	\$6.5M

**Derby and Fitzroy Crossing**

Shire of Derby West Kimberley	30 Service Worker Units	Planning and construction	Brokering Land	\$25M
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**Halls Creek**

Shire of Halls Creek	Stage one infill social housing - 30 social homes	Shovel ready	Brokering Land	\$30M
Shire of Halls Creek	9 affordable rentals	Shovel ready	Land	\$8.5M
Shire of Halls Creek	New land release – 80 lots - Social, affordable, for purchase	Planning and Headworks	Brokering Land	\$40M
Kimberley Language Resource Centre	4 affordable rentals	Shovel ready	Land	\$3.6M
Yarliyil Arts Centre	2 affordable rentals	Planning and construction	Land	\$3M
Jungarni Jutiya	3 affordable rentals	Planning and construction	Land	\$3.5M

**Kununurra**

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	16 affordable rentals - Water Lily Place	Shovel ready	Land	\$8M
Wunan Aboriginal Corporation	Bloodwood Drive 42 affordable homes	Planning and construction	Land	\$24.7M

## 11. 2025-26 Budget Submission to Federal Treasury

### Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

**Attachment 19: KRG 2025 Budget Submission Federal Department of Treasury (separately attached)**

### Purpose

To advise members that a 2025-26 Budget Submission was made to the Federal Treasury.

### In summary

- The Albanese Government invited individuals, businesses and community groups to submit their ideas and priorities for the 2025/26 Budget.
- The Executive Officer obtained approval from the Secretariat and CEO of the Shire of Broome for up to \$3K - \$4K to design a desktop-published document. \$1.9K was spent in accordance with approval.
- Further information can be found at <https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/2025-26-pre-budget-submissions>.
- The Government states that it places significant importance on receiving submissions in developing its budget policies and strategy.
- The KRG Submission was informed by the Position Papers, Investment Prospectus, Kimberley Housing Pipeline and Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package and new project information from Councils.
- The Submission includes a suite of policy and investment recommendations.
- The KRG submission will be published on the Australian Treasury Website and uploaded onto the KRG website.
- The Submission informed the updated advocacy document in advance of the State and Federal Elections.
- Note this figure requested in the Submission is different to that in the community safety and crime prevention package and pre-election submission as figures from two Shires were updated after this treasury submission was lodged.

### Details

#### Policy Recommendations

- Changes to Financial Assistance Grants as per the Position Paper
- Changes to FBT Housing as per the Position Paper
- That the Australian government invests to upgrade military assets and to increase its military presence in North West Australia

#### Investment Sought

Project	Amount
Kimberley Housing Pipeline	\$ 244,600,000.00
Crime Prevention and Community Safety Package	\$ 48,000,000.00



Tamani Road Activation Plan	\$ 500,000.00
Infrastructure and service to activate sealing of the Tanami Road	\$ 70,000,000.00
Halls Creek Business Park	\$ 70,000,000.00
Welcome to WA Centre	\$ 30,000,000.00
Halls Creek Eco-Tourism Park	\$ 20,000,000.00
Fitzroy Crossing Airport and Access Road	\$ 30,000,000.00
East Kimberley Regional Airport Arrivals Terminal	\$ 20,000,000.00
Halls Creek Airport Upgrade and Aviation Services	\$ 60,000,000.00
Derby Wharf Precinct and Masterplan	\$ 2,000,000.00
Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre Upgrade	\$ 21,400,000.00
Hall Creek Civic, Cultural Centre and Multi-Purpose Evacuation Facility	\$ 50,000,000.00
Fitzroy Crossing Multipurpose Complex and Evacuation Centre	\$ 35,200,000.00
Broome Boating Facility	\$ 42,000,000.00
Wyndham Playground and Splash park	\$ 3,000,000.00
Hall Creek Splash pad	\$ 4,000,000.00
Broome Regional Resource Recovery Centre	\$ 21,800,000.00
Halls Creek Recreation Centre and Oval Facilities Upgrade	\$ 30,000,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 802,500,000.00</b>

## Risk

- **Reputational:** Making a submission is part of the KRGs regional advocacy role and doing this in an election year is important.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>People</b> <b>Place</b> <b>Prosperity</b> <b>Performance</b></p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Advocate</b> <b>Partner</b> <b>Promote</b></p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Facilitate</b> <b>Fund</b> <b>Monitor</b></p> </div>	<p>The Executive Officer obtained approval from the Secretariat and CEO of the Shire of Broome for up to \$3K - \$4K to design a desktop-published document. \$1.9K was spent in accordance with approval.</p>
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p><b>That the KRG note that a submission has been made to the 2025-26 Australian Treasury.</b></p>			
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Responsible:</b>	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

## 12. KRG Business Plan 2021-25 Status Update

### Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 20: KRG Business Plan 2021-2025 Status Update (separately attached)

### Purpose

To provide an update on the status of the KRG Business Plan 2021-2025.

### In summary

- The KRG Business Plan 2021-2025 formed the basis of a KRG workshop held in November 2022 to prioritise actions to be progressed by the new KRG Executive Team.
- These prioritised actions are progressing with their status reported at each KRG meeting.
- At a planning workshop in October 2024, members discussed KRG operational and governance issues.
- Members discussed the merits of having a ten year community plan, a 5 year business plan, a communications and media plan and stakeholder engagement strategy. The Executive Team was tasked to develop a framework and consolidate the KRG Strategic Documents
- At the October 2024 workshop an updated status of the Business Plan was requested. This is attached. Also requested was that a workshop be scheduled in 2025 to develop a new KRG Business Plan – this will be progressed by the Executive Team.

### Background

- The KRG has a number of strategic documents. This includes:
  - Governance Charter and MOU
  - Strategic Community Plan 2021 -2031
  - Business Plan 2021-2025
  - Strategic Framework for Young People, 2018 and Youth Strategy Update 2020
  - Investment Prospectus 2024/25
  - Nine Position Papers
  - Media and communications plan
  - Stakeholder engagement plan and list
- NAJA, as a new Executive Team supporting the KRG, held a member workshop in November 2022 to review the Business Plan and determine priority actions to be progressed.
- From this workshop a Priority Action List was developed. An update of priority actions has been presented to each KRG meeting.
- At an October 2024 workshop there was discussion on the merits of having a ten year community plan, a 5 year business plan, a communications and media plan and stakeholder engagement strategy. Also, on how contemporary these documents are.
- It was agreed to rationalise and update the documents with the Executive Team tasked to develop a framework and consolidate the KRG Strategic Documents.

## Details

- As above

## Risk

- **Reputational:** with clarity on an agreed strategic direction KRG members may not be aligned.
- **Financial:** time and funding could be allocated to non-priority projects.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     People Place Prosperity Performance                 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor                 </div>	Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p><b>That the KRG note</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The status of actions in the KRG Business Plan 2021-2025</b></li> <li><b>That executive team will develop a framework and consolidate the KRG Strategic Documents for KRG consideration.</b></li> <li><b>That an updated Business/Action plan will be developed as part of this exercise.</b></li> </ol>		Executive Team to continue developing a framework and consolidating the KRG Strategic Documents.	
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Team
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Halls Creek	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

## 13. Election Strategy Update

### Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

### Purpose

To provide an update on the Kimberley Regional Group State and Federal government election strategy and determine whether the KRG wants to host an election forum/s within in person or online for Kimberley State and Federal Candidates. Also to invite journalists to visit the Kimberley.

### In summary

- The State Election is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2025: Caretaker period commences 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- The Federal election date is not yet decided.
- The KRG endorsed an election strategy in November 2023 meeting with the aim of gaining election commitments for investment in Kimberley infrastructure and services.
- Up to \$7,600 was allocated by the KRG towards this strategy.
- An Election Advocacy, Communications and Engagement Plan was endorsed in June 2024.
- The KRG's stakeholder engagement approach was discussed at the KRG October 2024 workshop
- The Investment Prospectus 2024/25 has been used to advocate for election commitments, along with the Position Papers.
- Meetings have been held with State and Federal members of Parliament in Canberra, Perth and the Kimberley.
- A budget submission was lodged in January 2025 with the Federal Treasurer based on the Prospectus, Housing Pipeline and Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package.
- The hosting of a journalist tour has not progressed
- The hosting of forums with candidates has not progressed – noting that the Chambers of Commerce are undertaking this.
- WA Labor has released its Vision for the Kimberley which outlines a suite of election promises.
- A KRG pre-election submission which incorporates the Housing Pipeline, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package and updated projects and costs has been developed. This was sent to the WA Labor, Liberal and National parties in advance of the WA election.

### Background

#### Collateral for the Election Strategy

The Election Document includes a KRG folder with a Kimberley statistical snapshot. Inside this is a summary document with KRG advocacy positions and investment projects, the 2024/25 Investment Prospectus and the Position Papers.

#### Advocacy, Communications and Engagement Plan

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

Action	By When	Channel/ Tool	Status
Position papers onto website	7 June 2024	Linked in Post	Complete
Prospectus onto website	20 June 2024	Linked in Post	Complete
Formally Launch Prospectus	29 August 2024	Kimberley Economic Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview by KRG Chair</li> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Linked in Post</li> </ul>	Complete
Meet with key stakeholders in Canberra	August 2024	Meetings in Canberra at RAI National Summit and parliamentarians	Complete
Distribution of Prospectus and Position Papers to key stakeholders - Invite Prime Minister, LOOP & Premier and LOOP and invite them to visit Kimberley	Sept/ Oct 2024	Letter to key stakeholders with copy / link to documents	Complete
		Information on Council social media	On track
		CEO emails to Council staff	On track
		Information in Council social media / comms	On track
Meet with key stakeholders in Perth	Ongoing	Executive officer / Members	Ongoing
Opinion Piece for West Australian and The Australian	Jan/Feb 2025	Opinion Piece under Chair's name	Complete
Host journalist tour of Kimberley	Nov - Feb 2025		Pending discussion
Meetings in Canberra	Nov 2024	Meet with Federal parliamentarians	Complete
Highlight projects on Linked-In	Oct – March 2024		Ongoing
Host Election forum/s - Kimberley State Candidates & Federal Candidates (note these could be online or in person)	Feb 2025	Shires to host forum	Pending discussion - CCI's are doing this
A pre-election document which incorporates the Housing Pipeline, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package and updated projects and costs.	February 2025	A pre-election submission to the State and Federal Government has been produced for advocacy purposes.	New initiative

## Details

### Kimberley funding announcements and election commitments

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



## Projects in the KRG Infrastructure Prospectus 2024 2025

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

### Other Government funding announcements

#### State

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

#### Federal (including rPPP and Growing Regions funding)

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

### Kimberley Specific Election Commitments

The following is an overview of known election commitments at the time of preparing this agenda paper.

#### State Labor – Total Kimberley Promise \$80.502M

WA Labor has produced their Vision for the Kimberley Document<sup>2</sup>, which includes election commitments. The advice is that this document will be updated as required. Also updated Kimberley election commitments can be found on the Kimberley MLA's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DivinaDAnnaKimberley>. The following commitments were made at the time of writing this item:

#### Whole of Kimberley - Total \$23.997M

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

#### Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley - Total \$12.645M

- \$5M Water Lily Place Housing Project Kununurra
- \$5.9M Kununurra Night Space
- \$120K to upgrade the Kununurra Picture Gardens
- \$75K for a new bus for the Port Wyndham Crocs Football Team

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rogercook.com.au/media/cook-labor-government-doing-what-s-right-for-the-kimberley>

- \$1.5M over 4 years - Kununurra PCYC (as part of PCYC Statewide Package)
- \$50K -Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation Training and Works loader

#### **Shire of Derby West Kimberley – Total \$24.050M**

- \$5.3M to expand dialysis unit at Fitzroy Crossing
- \$8.7M towards Derby Wellness Centre
- \$10M Fitzroy Crossing Multipurpose Complex and Evacuation Centre
- \$50K for a community works tractor in Looma

#### **Shire of Broome – Total \$15.785M**

- \$500K for planning towards Yawuru Cultural Center, Broome
- \$11M modern clinic for Broome Aboriginal Medical Services
- \$2M to plan for low to medium detox center Broome
- \$1.5M over 4 years Broome PCYC (as part of PCYC Statewide Package)
- \$250K for Men's Safe Space in Djarindjin Community
- \$30K to Goolarri Media Enterprises for archiving equipment
- \$500K for a business case to plan for a future passenger terminal in Broome<sup>3</sup>
- \$5K Broome Volunteer Fire and Rescue

#### **Shire of Halls Creek – Total \$4.025M**

- \$4M Zero Depth Water Splash Pad, Halls Creek
- \$25K to the Jungarni Jutiyya Community Resource Centre Halls Creek (part of a Statewide CRC Package)

#### **State Liberal, Nationals and Greens**

- No specific Kimberley announcements

#### **Federal Liberal, Nationals and Greens**

- No specific Kimberley announcements

#### **Status of previous Kimberley state government election commitments**

The ABC identified ten commitments to the Kimberley since 2019 the government has failed to meet<sup>4</sup>. The Premier responded that these all in progress. It's a complex area, both geographically, culturally ... and they are difficult builds to do. These commitments are:

#### **Family and Domestic Violence:**

- \$16.2 million family and domestic violence one stop hub announced in 2022 due to open 2023.
- \$5.6 million Aboriginal-led specialist family and domestic violence court in Broome committed in the 2021-2022 State Budget and due to be operational mid-2023.

#### **Health:**

- \$9.2 million Kimberley alcohol and other drug youth centre committed in 2019-2020 State Budget due to be operational in 2021.
- \$10.7 million Broome sobering up centre allocated in 2021 with location yet to be determined.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rogercook.com.au/media/future-proofing-broome-port-and-tourism-into-the-kimberley-and-wa>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-01-18/kimberley-promises-not-yet-delivered-by-labor-wa-state-election/104821248?utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=abc\\_regloc\\_kimberley\\_sfmc\\_20250121&utm\\_term=&utm\\_id=2488854&sfmc\\_id=368705982](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-01-18/kimberley-promises-not-yet-delivered-by-labor-wa-state-election/104821248?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=abc_regloc_kimberley_sfmc_20250121&utm_term=&utm_id=2488854&sfmc_id=368705982)

- \$9.4 million Step Up/Step Down centre, first committed by the Liberal government in 2016, and now earmarked to be part of a Yawuru-run Broome health and wellbeing campus, which is delayed.
- \$24 million Halls Creek renal dialysis centre committed in 2021 due to be operational 2024/25.

**Justice:**

- \$1.4 million planning for new Broome prison committed in 2019-20 State Budget

**Youth:**

- \$15 million Marlamanu on-country youth diversionary facility announced in 2022, due for completion 2023, delayed until mid-2025.

**Other:**

- \$36.3 million Broome boating facility committed in 2021-22 State Budget, pending additional funding for the \$77 million project.
- \$20 million Aboriginal short stay hostel Kununurra announced in 2020, location still to be decided.

**Risk**

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

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<p>People Place Prosperity Performance</p>	<p>Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor</p>	There may be an additional cost for hosting election forums with State and Federal Candidates in person. Online forums can be managed within Executive Team Core hours.	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p><b>That the KRG</b>  <b>1. note the progress of the Election Strategy</b>  <b>2. continue advocacy at a federal level.</b></p>		<p>Executive Officer to reach out to the Federal candidates to arrange a briefing on March 5<sup>th</sup> and update members once confirmed.</p>	
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Officer
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		

## 14. Around the Grounds

### Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

### Purpose

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

### In summary

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

### Background

As above.

### Risk

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

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications
People Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b>	<b>Advocate</b> Partner <b>Promote</b>	<b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b>
Resolution/s		Action(s)
For information only		TBD

## 15. Kimberley Regional Group Priority Action List

### Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 21: Status Report, KRG Prioritised Action List

### Purpose

To provide a status update on action items.

### In summary

- The Priority Action List 2023/24, developed November 2022, is a standing agenda item.
- Priority Actions do not preclude other activities or seizing opportunities as they arise.

### Background

As above

### Details

As above

### Risk

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

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     People Place Prosperity Performance                 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor                 </div>	Additional consultancy money to progress some actions to be considered after a scope of works is presented for endorsement	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
That the KRG notes progress of the priority action items.			
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	Executive Team
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	As appropriate
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		





Attachment 21: KRG Prioritised Action List Status February 2025

**Legend**

Ongoing		Complete	On track	Pending	Behind
Type of Activity	Actions		Within contract scope	Status Update	
Facilitate and partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a collective Kimberley Housing Investment Strategy</li> </ul>		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Advocacy Strategy endorsed at November 2023 meeting.</li> <li>Discussion with Housing Australia to develop of a 5-year Kimberley Housing Pipeline</li> <li>Discussion with the WA Treasury Housing Supply Unit who support the pipeline approach</li> <li>Pipeline projects identified by each Shire.</li> <li>Work is progressing on demand data and pipeline schedule – once this complete it will be sent to key government stakeholders.</li> </ul>	
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Maintenance Advocacy Strategy</li> </ul>		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy to be developed for KRG endorsement</li> </ul>	
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review KRG land policy and strategy</li> <li>Advocate for policy changes to the transfer of Crown land to freehold for the provision of housing, with savings allocated for headworks or other activities to facilitate development.</li> </ul>		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper scheduled for April meeting</li> </ul>	
Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a joint project to quantify shire expenditure on vandalism/property crime.</li> <li>Develop a Local Government community safety package for investment i.e., Street lighting (LED), CCTV, infrastructure, policing, preventative services.</li> </ul>		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope of works endorsed at November 2023 meeting.</li> <li>RFQ released by SWEK</li> <li>NAJA engaged</li> <li>Projects sought from each Shire along with case studies.</li> <li>Engagement undertaken key stakeholders undertaken to inform the package.</li> <li>Draft package on February 2025 Agenda</li> </ul>	
Improve performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving performance by learning from others (Benchmarking Project)</li> </ul>		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benchmarking project endorsed November 2023 meeting.</li> <li>Templates provided to Councils for input and awaiting a response</li> </ul>	

Monitor and Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research on the Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) methodology with recommendations for changes to the funding allocation.</li> </ul>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope of works endorsed at November 2023 meeting.</li> <li>RFQ released by SWEK and NAJA engaged</li> <li>FAGS report on February 2025 Agenda</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake Pre-election advocacy</li> </ul>	Yes (unless Canberra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election strategy being executed</li> </ul>
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore Shared Services Opportunities</li> </ul>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEOs met 30<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>Clarity needed on role of Executive to support this</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of mental health services.</li> <li>Expansion of family and domestic violence services.</li> <li>Expansion of aged care services.</li> <li>Health facilities that are fit for purpose in Aboriginal communities.</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data needed – an opportunity to lead joint advocacy with NGOs</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for whole of family approach and wrap around services to be located in the Kimberley.</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolled into pre-election strategy. Benchmarking exercise to assist with this.</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a stakeholder engagement, communications and advocacy strategy in line with the Policy Papers</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop advocacy strategies to encourage economic diversification including mining; tourism; agriculture; defence; creative Industries; small business; Indigenous business growth</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing advocacy and engagement</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for MOG initiatives around better place based regional service delivery to be progressed.</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing advocacy and engagement.</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability.</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission Framework on the April 2024 agenda for discussion and input.</li> <li>Submission lodged 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024</li> <li>Attended public hearing August 2024.</li> </ul>
Advocate Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather government election priorities</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed government commitments</li> </ul>
Advocate Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create Investment Prospectus 2023</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> </ul>
Advocate Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create Investment Prospectus 2024</li> </ul>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding allocated by KRG.</li> <li>Information obtained from Councils.</li> <li>Item of April 2024 agenda. for endorsement</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop pre-election summary document</li> </ul>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> </ul>

Advocate Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop communication and advocacy plan</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key messages / key stakeholders</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop White Paper with clear positions</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete – Instead of White Paper Position Papers Developed-</li> <li>Prosperous and Diverse Economy</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Management of Alcohol and Other Drugs</li> <li>Juvenile Justice</li> <li>Community Safety and Crime Prevention</li> <li>Provision of Government Services</li> <li>Emergency Management</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase support for mitigation measures, infrastructure replacement to be more resilient.</li> <li>Removal of the distinction between ordinary and additional costs in NDR payments.</li> <li>Streamlined contracting and procurement processes, surety to payments, and immediate access to NDR funds.</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Submission endorsed and submitted.</li> <li>Senate Inquiry submission submitted.</li> <li>EM Policy Paper submitted. These points included in submissions and EM Policy Paper.</li> </ul>
Facilitate and Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop strong relationships with NHFIC (National Housing Finance Investment Corporation), Development WA and the Department of Communities – invite CEOs to KRG meeting to discuss partnership opportunities.</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHFIC, now Housing Australia, attended November 2023 meeting. Will be engaged through Housing Advocacy Strategy.</li> </ul>
Advocate	<p>Develop a stakeholder engagement and communications plan, and advocacy strategy, to drive the actions identified in the Housing Policy Position, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and federal social and affordable housing investment programs target the Kimberley</li> <li>Community housing partnerships.</li> <li>The DPLH support Shires to review housing needs in each town.</li> <li>Changes to Government Regional Officer Housing and Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme policies</li> <li>Government incentives for new supply</li> <li>Changes to finance lending practices for home purchase</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endorsed November 2023 meeting</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission to Aviation Green Paper</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission endorsed at November 2023 meeting and submitted</li> </ul>
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review KRG Governance Documents</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance documents endorsed at November 2023 meeting.</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission to National Housing and Homelessness Plan</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission lodged based on Housing Policy Position</li> </ul>



Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Port of Entry Status</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters sent to State and Federal Government Ministers – continued to be raised in meetings with government.</li> <li>• Expanded FPOE status progressed for Broome</li> <li>• Wyndham First Port of Entry Status Federally approved 17 January 2025</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defense and Border Security</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters to Ministers</li> <li>• Support for North West Defence Alliance</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol Management – Letters and submissions on the Banned Drinkers Register</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submissions made on proposed changes to the Banned Drinkers Register</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential summit with Regional Australia Institute, 14-15 August, Canberra</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAJA negotiated reduced conference package and opportunities</li> <li>• KRG sponsor of National Summit recognised through branding and dedicated session.</li> </ul>
Facilitate and Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable</li> </ul>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held in Broome July 2024.</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch Pre-election document</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal launch at August 2024 Kimberley Economic Forum.</li> </ul>
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanami Activation Strategy</li> </ul>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KDC leading this work - application lodged for precinct funding under rPPP</li> <li>• Activation strategy is included in the Investment Prospectus and Election Strategy</li> </ul>

## 16. Executive Officer Report

### Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Officer

Attachment 22: EO Report January 2025

### Purpose

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

### Background

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

### Details

As in included attachment.

### Risk

Nil

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity <b>Performance</b>	<b>Advocate</b> Partner <b>Promote</b>	<b>Facilitate</b> Fund <b>Monitor</b>	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<b>That the Executive Officers Report be received and endorsed</b>		As per Outstanding Actions	
<b>Moved:</b>	Shire of Broome	<b>Responsible:</b>	-
<b>Seconded:</b>	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	<b>Due date:</b>	-
<b>Carried:</b>	4/0		



Attachment 22: EO Report – January 2025
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## Project Work / Activity

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

Project / Activity	Status	Item
Administrative Matters and Meetings	Ongoing	-
Website and social media	LinkedIn posts continuing	-
State and Federal Government Election Strategy	Implementing Strategy	13
Strategic Planning	Implementation of the KRG Prioritised Action List	15
Advocacy Strategy Management of Social Housing	In Progress	-
Financial Assistance Grants Review Project	Report is complete and is in the February 2025 agenda for endorsement.	8
Community Safety & Crime Prevention Investment Project	Investment package is complete and is in the February 2025 agenda for endorsement.	9
General Stakeholder Engagement	Ongoing – see Stakeholder list	16

## Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Purpose
KRG members	Stakeholder meetings in Canberra
KRG Secretariat	Agenda items, advocacy discussions, finance administrative matters
Kevin Wheatley, Business Partnerships Manager, Developing Northern Australia, Dr Allan Dale, Professor of Tropical Regional Development, The Cairns Institute	Developing Northern Australia Conference 22-24 July 2025 Cairns
CEO, City of Vincent	Government Forum July 2025
Hon. Neil Thomson MLC, Shadow Minister for Environment; Planning and Lands and Rowena Olsen, Liberal for Kalgoorlie	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting

Stakeholders	Purpose
Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development; Jobs and Trade	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting
Hon. Hannah Beazley, MLA, Minister for Local Government, Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting
Hon. Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing; Minister for Homelessness	Kimberley Residential Land and Housing Snapshot, Kimberley Regional Group Housing Roundtable Report, Kimberley housing pipeline projects for immediate progression
Hon. Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting request
Hon. David Michael MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting request
Senator the Hon. Jenny McAllister, Minister for Emergency Management; Minister for Cities	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting request
Chris Water, Assistant Commissioner, Regional operations WEST	Australian border force's presence in the northwest and the protocols they currently have in place. Meeting request
Michele Pucci, A/CEO Kimberley Development Commission	Kimberley Housing Pipeline, Housing Data, Election Budget Submission
Keith Williams, Director Regional Development Commission, Kimberley Development Commission	Kimberley Housing Pipeline
Janine Hatch, Director RDA Kimberley	Kimberley Housing Pipeline, Election Budget Submission
Emma Colombera, Director WA Housing Supply Unit	Kimberley Housing Pipeline
Hon. Melissa Price MP, Federal Member for Durack	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Senator Matt O'Sullivan, Senator for WA	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Hon. Michael Sukkar MP, Federal Member for Deakin, Shadow Minister for Social Services, NDIS, Housing, Homelessness	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra

Stakeholders	Purpose
Hon. Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Phoebe Drake, Senior Adviser to the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Kate Gurbiel, Policy Adviser, Cecilia Tan, Senior Adviser, of the Hon. Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Senator Glenn Sterle, Senator for WA	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Yasmin Truong, Early Childhood Adviser for the Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Hon. Patrick Gorman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General, Assistant Minister for the Public Service	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Karmil Nguyen, Adviser of the Hon. Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Senator Perin Davey, Deputy Leader of the Nationals in the Senate, Deputy Federal Leader of the Nationals	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Senator Susan McDonald, Senator for QLD, Liberal National Party	2025 Pre-Election strategy and Priorities meeting in Canberra
Gabriele Visentin, EU Ambassador	Specific interests of the EU Delegation in the Kimberley following their 2024 visit to Western Australia.

## Time Allocation

### Historic Contract: September 2022 – August 2024

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

### Current Contract: September 2024 – August 2025

Total 1-Year Contract: 864 Hours: Monthly from 8<sup>th</sup> of the month to 7<sup>th</sup> of the next month

	Paul Rosair		Michelle Mackenzie		Jane Lewis		Support	
	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual
Sep 24	25	32	22	23	26	7	5	8
Oct 24	25	37.5	22	24.75	26	46	5	10
Nov 24	25	36.5	22	9.5	26	10	5	12
Dec 24	15	15.5	11	11	14	3	2	3
Jan 25	15	19.5	11	47.50	14	49.5	2	3
Feb 25	25		22		26		5	
Mar 25	25		22		26		5	
Apr 25	25		22		26		5	
May 25	25		22		26		5	
June 25	25		22		26		5	
July 25	25		22		26		5	
Aug 25	25		22		26		5	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>115.75</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>115.5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>OVERALL CONTRACT: 318 ACTUALS: 408.25</b>								

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

## 17. General Business

Item	Responsible	Comments /Actions Arising
Developing Northern Australia Conference 22-24 July 2025 Cairns	Executive Officer	Refer Attachment 23 Members to inform the Executive Team of the attendees from each Shire as soon as possible.
Benchmarking	Executive Team	Report was to be tabled at the December meeting subject to information being returned by Councils to the Executive Team. Information required from the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and Shire of Halls Creek.
KRG Annual Report	Executive Officer	Refer Attachment 24 (separately attached)
Review of Clearing Legislation: KRG Submission	Executive Officer	Submitted to WALGA 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024 Refer Attachment 25
April 2025 KRG Halls Creek In Person Meeting and Shire Tour	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Further details to be provided to members once confirmed.



Attachment 23: 2025 Developing Northern Australia Conference



## 2025 DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

Hi Paul,

Join us in Cairns for the 2025 Developing Northern Australia Conference and be a valued partner in shaping the future.

During this thought-provoking event, you are guaranteed plenty of opportunities to network and showcase your solutions.

After 10 previous years of successful results, we know this conference is critical to connecting industry leaders and sharing pivotal information on the strategic direction for the progress, growth and investment above the Tropic of Capricorn.

I appreciate your consideration of support for this event and look forward to the opportunity to develop a mutually beneficial partnership, not only for 2025 but well into the future.

On behalf of the team, I hope you choose to partner with us as we work together to create the best conference to date.

I look forward to discussing with you further.

Kind regards,

**Kevin Wheatley**  
**Business Partnerships Manager**



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## MEET YOUR MARKET

The 2025 Developing Northern Australia Conference and Trade Exhibition will be held from Tuesday 22nd - Thursday 24th July at the Cairns Convention Centre.

The conference will bring together **over 450** participants comprising the region's leading government representatives and those passionate about Developing the Northern Australia Region.

The event will showcase innovations in new development opportunities and services and tackle some of the big issues and opportunities through presentations and interactive sessions.



## DNA 2025

We are thoroughly working to ensure a fulfilling experience for this year's conference and our website has official launched. I'd like to extend you an invitation to join us to network and discuss Driving Northern Development.

How often do you have the chance to get up close and personal with the Northern Australia leaders in economy, agriculture, mining and resources and First Nations-led opportunities?

Here's what you'll gain from attending

1. Unique connections with other northern Australians seeking to make the North a better place.
2. Influence on policies and budget decisions that impact the North.
3. In-depth analysis of the big issues and opportunities facing Northern Australians.

Theme = Securing Australia's Future by Driving Northern Development.

### Registration Option A

Current registration = \$1,349 + GST.

Reduced to \$1,199 + GST.

**10** Registrations Total = Total \$11,990 + GST

### Registration Option B

Current registration = \$1,349 + GST.

Reduced to \$1,149 + GST.

**15** Registrations Total = Total \$17,235 + GST

### Registration Option C

Current registration = \$1,349 + GST.

Reduced to \$1,049 + GST.

**20** Registrations Total = Total \$20,980 + GST

### Website Promotion

Logo on the conference website partnership page, which includes a hyperlink to your homepage. Under Alliances Partnership

### Conference Handbook

Two full page adverts in conference handbook to be shared between KRG and RCAWA.

**Total free value \$4,000 + GST**

**Conference registrations**, including ticket to the Networking Event.  
Please note, Conference Dinner is at an additional cost.

4



# Booking Form

**PACKAGE SELECTION(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name for deliverables: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatory name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone for website inquiries: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for website inquiries: \_\_\_\_\_

URL for website inquiries: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation of partnership or exhibition space is conditional upon this form being completed and full payment received. A tax invoice will be issued for this amount and must be paid within 14 days; this payment is non-refundable should the booking be cancelled. All prices are in AU Dollars and **exclusive of GST**. Please refer to the prospectus for inclusions of your partnership booking.

COVID-19: Should the conference not be able to take place in JULY 2025 due to COVID19, the conference will be postponed along with all bookings. Should the new dates of 2026 not be suitable, a refund less a suitably agreed amount between the sponsor and association concerning advertising and action items up to the announcement date will be discussed.

I/We agree to comply with the terms and conditions as above all of which I/we acknowledge, have read and understood.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLENARY DROP - EXCLUSIVE**

- Dropped in the Keynote Sessions
- 450 plus delegates receive your flyer
- \$2,200 + GST

**CONFERENCE HANDBOOK**

- Full Page \$2,000 + GST
- Half Page \$1,200 + GST
- Quarter Page \$800 + GST

## 2025 DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

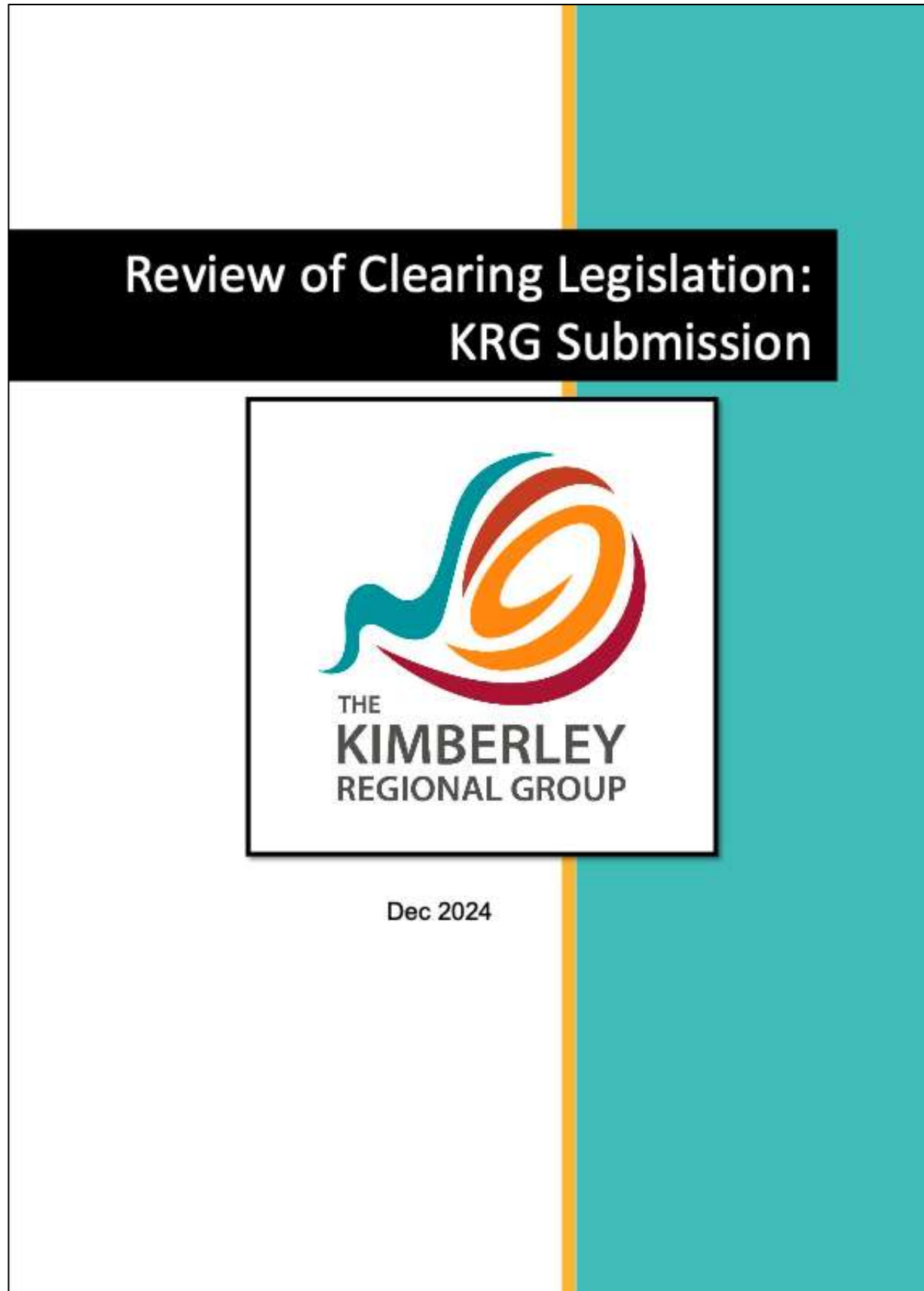
Kevin Wheatley  
Sponsorship, Partnership Manager  
M- 0456 191 811  
E - partnerships@northaust.org.au



Partnership Manager Additional Comments

5

Attachment 25: Review of Clearing Legislation: KRG Submission







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## 1. Arguing for an Exemption for Gravel Extraction under Western Australian Clearing Legislation

The **Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004** in Western Australia (WA) provide important exemptions for clearing native vegetation related to essential public works, particularly the construction and maintenance of roads. However, there is a significant gap in these regulations concerning the sourcing of materials, such as gravel, from Crown (Reserves, Unallocated, National Parks, Mining and Pastoral Leases) or privately owned land for these public works.

Given the specific provisions in the Land Administration Act 1997 and the Local Government Act 1995, there is a strong case to be argued that exemptions should be extended to include the extraction of gravel and other materials without requiring a clearing permit. This would help streamline public works projects while maintaining environmental protections.

### 1.1 Current Legal Exemptions for Road Construction and Maintenance

#### 1.1.1 The Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004

The **Environmental Protection Regulations** exempt certain infrastructure-related clearing activities from requiring a clearing permit, most notably road construction and maintenance. Regulation 5 provides that clearing is permissible for the construction, maintenance, or improvement of public roads, railways, and utilities without the need for a clearing permit. This is crucial for ensuring that public infrastructure can be developed and maintained without significant delays due to regulatory hurdles.

However, while this exemption applies to clearing land for infrastructure, it does not explicitly address the sourcing of gravel and other materials necessary for road construction. Gravel, as a fundamental material for building and maintaining roads, often needs to be extracted from the land in proximity to construction sites, including Crown and private land. Given the increasing demand for local materials, the current regulatory framework does not provide the same level of exemption for material extraction, despite its clear relevance to public works.

#### 1.1.2 The Land Administration Act 1997: Ministerial Powers for Temporary Occupation of Land

The **Land Administration Act 1997** provides a clear legal basis for temporary occupation of land for public works purposes. Section 185 of the Act grants the Minister the authority to allow individuals or entities to temporarily occupy and use Crown land for constructing or repairing public infrastructure. This section explicitly permits the extraction of materials, including stone, gravel, and earth, from the land for these projects.





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This provision is critical for ensuring that local governments and contractors can access the materials (at reasonable cost) needed for road construction without facing delays in acquiring permits or navigating lengthy regulatory processes. The extraction of gravel, a common requirement for roadwork, could be carried out under the same authorisation without the need for additional environmental clearances, as long as the material is being used for public infrastructure projects.

Importantly, the Land Administration Act allows for the extraction of these materials with minimal oversight, which is consistent with the approach to facilitating infrastructure development. The Act's exemption for gravel and material extraction is inherently aligned with the public interest, ensuring that necessary materials are readily available to meet the needs of ongoing public works projects.

### 1.1.3 The Local Government Act 1995: Powers for Material Extraction

The **Local Government Act 1995** further supports the case for exempting local governments from requiring a clearing permit for gravel extraction. Specifically, **Schedule 3.2** allows local governments to take materials, including **gravel**, from land for the purpose of constructing and maintaining infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and culverts. Section 3.27(1) states that local governments may extract native growing or dead timber, earth, stone, sand, or **gravel** that they deem necessary for public works, including the creation and repair of thoroughfares.

This provision reflects the practical needs of local governments, which often rely on locally sourced materials to carry out road maintenance and construction projects. The ability to extract gravel and other materials directly from the land helps reduce costs and delays associated with transporting materials from distant quarries. By providing an exemption under the Local Government Act, local governments are empowered to carry out their duties effectively while ensuring that materials needed for public infrastructure are accessible and affordable.

### 1.2 The Case for Extending Exemptions to Material Extraction

The Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 currently do not extend the same exemptions for material extraction as they do for clearing related to infrastructure construction. Given the provisions in the Land Administration Act and the Local Government Act, it is logical to argue that local governments and other public authorities should be granted the same level of exemption for the extraction of gravel and other materials as they have for road construction.

Extending the exemption to include the sourcing of gravel from Crown and privately owned land would achieve several important objectives:

1. **Streamlining Public Works:** Exemptions for material extraction would reduce the regulatory burden on local governments and contractors, allowing for more efficient and timely completion of public infrastructure projects.
2. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Local governments would be able to source materials closer to their construction sites, which would significantly reduce transportation costs and the environmental impact of transporting materials over long distances.



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3. **Alignment with Existing Legislative Frameworks:** Both the **Land Administration Act** and the **Local Government Act** already provide exemptions for material extraction for public works. Extending these exemptions to include clearing-related activities would create a more cohesive and comprehensive approach to facilitating infrastructure development.
4. **Environmental Protections:** The proposed exemption could be designed with appropriate safeguards to ensure that material extraction is done responsibly. For instance, it could be conditioned on the requirement to rehabilitate the land post-extraction, as is already common practice for other activities under the relevant Acts.

### 1.3 Conclusion

The Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 provide valuable exemptions for clearing activities related to road construction and maintenance. However, there is a clear need to extend these exemptions to the extraction of gravel and other materials from Crown and privately owned land. By utilising the powers provided under the Land Administration Act 1997 and the Local Government Act 1995, local governments and public authorities can effectively meet their material needs for infrastructure projects while minimizing regulatory delays and costs. Such an exemption would not only facilitate the construction and maintenance of critical public infrastructure but also ensure that these works can be carried out in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective manner.

In the development of the original clearing legislation this exemption was drafted by parliamentary council in 2004, however sadly it did not survive the upper house review process. It should again be reconsidered as part of any clearing regulations review.







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## 2. Arguing for Clearing Exemptions under Western Australian Legislation to apply in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA's) within the State

The Environmental Protection Act (EP Act) of Western Australia provides a range of exemptions from the requirement to obtain a clearing permit for certain activities. These exemptions are designed to allow for specific land-use activities while protecting the environment and ensuring that critical operations can proceed without unnecessary delays. Below is an overview of the key exemptions under the EP Act, with a specific focus on the safety-related exemptions and how the exclusion of such exemptions within environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) is impractical and flawed.

### 2.1 Exemptions under the Environmental Protection Act (EP Act)

The **Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004** outline several exemptions for clearing activities under the EP Act. These exemptions are categorised to address common land management activities or situations that don't pose significant risks to the environment. The exemptions are broadly grouped into the following categories:

- **Safety Exemptions**

The **safety-related exemptions** allow clearing activities to be undertaken in certain circumstances to address immediate safety threats, such as the removal of hazardous vegetation or the creation of emergency access routes. These exemptions are vital for ensuring public safety in areas where hazardous vegetation may obstruct roads or infrastructure, particularly in the event of bushfires or floods.

However, **safety exemptions are currently not applicable in ESAs**, which creates significant challenges when immediate action is required to protect human life or property.

- **Fire Management Exemptions**

Certain activities related to fire prevention and management are exempt from the clearing permit requirement. These include the clearing of vegetation to create **firebreaks** (both in urban and rural settings) or to reduce fuel loads in areas prone to wildfires. This exemption is particularly important for landowners and local governments who need to manage fire risks.

However, the limitation of fire management exemptions within ESAs is particularly problematic when areas at high risk of wildfire also fall within these protected zones. The inability to use firebreak creation or fuel load reduction exemptions in these areas may increase the risk of uncontrollable fires, making safety concerns secondary to environmental restrictions.


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- **Infrastructure Exemptions**

This category allows for the clearing of vegetation necessary for maintaining or improving public infrastructure. Activities that qualify for this exemption include clearing for the construction or maintenance of roads, railways, pipelines, and other utilities. These infrastructure-related activities are often necessary for the ongoing functionality of communities and businesses.

While the exemption is important for maintaining infrastructure, its exclusion within ESAs can create a situation where critical infrastructure, such as access roads or powerlines, cannot be safely maintained. In areas prone to natural disasters, such as bushfires or floods, failing to maintain these vital routes due to ESA restrictions could result in greater harm to both the environment and public safety.

- **Agricultural Exemptions**

Certain agricultural activities, such as the clearing of land for cropping, grazing, or the construction of farm infrastructure, may be exempt from clearing permit requirements. These exemptions are designed to support agricultural activities while ensuring that they do not result in significant environmental degradation.

While agricultural activities are vital for food production and the economy, these exemptions should be carefully considered in ESAs. Certain farming practices, like land clearing for agriculture, could lead to significant loss of native vegetation and biodiversity, especially in sensitive areas. Nonetheless, the exclusion of safety-related agricultural activities, such as clearing hazardous vegetation in farm infrastructure areas within ESAs, adds an unnecessary layer of restriction when safety is at risk.

- **Clearing for Research Purposes**

Another exemption allows for clearing in areas designated for scientific or ecological research. This exemption supports research that can contribute to environmental conservation, biodiversity studies, and ecosystem restoration. However, this exemption does not address the need for safety-related clearing in areas where research activities may involve risks or where clearing is necessary for access to research sites, such as for emergency evacuations or ensuring safe working conditions for researchers. In these cases, the exclusion of safety exemptions becomes a barrier to necessary actions.

- **Maintenance of Existing Land Uses**

Exemptions also exist for clearing that is required to maintain existing land uses. This includes maintenance activities like the clearing of vegetation to maintain existing roads, tracks, or facilities. The lack of safety exemptions in ESAs can complicate maintenance efforts where there is a need to ensure safety along existing infrastructure, especially in areas prone to floods, wildfires, or other hazards. Without the ability to clear hazardous vegetation, the safety of infrastructure users can be compromised, undermining the purpose of land-use management.




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- **Routine and Minor Clearing**

Routine and minor clearing that does not have significant environmental impacts, such as **clearing for the maintenance of existing tracks or minor vegetation trimming**, can also be exempted under the regulations. This exemption allows for the ongoing management of land without the need for extensive permitting processes.

However, this exemption is unlikely to cover safety-related activities like clearing trees after a storm, or removing fallen debris in ESAs. The inability to quickly address these safety concerns—due to the exclusion of safety exemptions in ESAs—could lead to hazardous conditions in areas that would otherwise be safe with timely intervention.

## 2.2 Why Excluding Safety Exemptions in ESAs is Impractical and Flawed

The exclusion of safety-related exemptions for clearing in ESAs is problematic for several reasons:

### 2.2.1 Public Safety and Emergency Response

Safety exemptions, including those for clearing hazardous vegetation or creating firebreaks, are critical for public safety, particularly in high-risk areas like bushfire-prone regions. Without the ability to access these exemptions in ESAs, critical safety interventions such as creating firebreaks, clearing hazardous trees from roads, or establishing emergency access routes become subject to unnecessary delays. These delays could result in significant property damage, harm to individuals, and, in extreme cases, loss of life.

### 2.2.2 Inability to Address Immediate Risks

When safety exemptions are not allowed within ESAs, emergency responses to urgent threats, such as bushfires or flooding, are hindered. The time it takes to apply for and receive a clearing permit under the current framework may be too long to effectively mitigate imminent threats. Delays in clearing hazardous vegetation could exacerbate the damage caused by natural disasters, potentially making the environmental damage worse in the long run.

### 2.2.3 Contradicting the Dual Goals of the EP Act

The Environmental Protection Act aims to strike a balance between protecting the environment and enabling practical land management. Excluding safety exemptions from ESAs creates a conflict between these two goals. In many cases, clearing for safety reasons does not lead to significant long-term environmental harm and, in fact, can help prevent larger-scale ecological damage caused by unmanaged fires or other natural disasters. The failure to acknowledge this balance creates a regulatory framework that is overly rigid and unresponsive to real-world needs.



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#### 2.2.4 Incentivising Non-Compliance

When necessary, safety interventions are delayed due to the lack of exemptions, landowners or local authorities may choose to undertake clearing activities without permits. This circumvention of the regulations could lead to greater environmental degradation, as clearing may be done without proper consideration of ecological factors. It also undermines the integrity of the regulatory system by encouraging non-compliance in situations where the environmental harm is minimal compared to the safety benefit.

#### 2.3 Conclusion

The Environmental Protection Act provides important exemptions for clearing activities, but the exclusion of safety-related exemptions within environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) is both impractical and flawed. Safety exemptions, such as those for creating firebreaks or clearing hazardous vegetation, are essential for managing risks to public safety and protecting both human life and the environment.

The current restrictions on safety exemptions in ESAs hinder emergency responses, create unnecessary bureaucratic delays, and may lead to non-compliance. A more flexible, case-by-case approach that includes safety exemptions within ESAs would ensure a balanced, practical, and effective regulatory framework that can respond to both environmental and public safety needs.



Attachment 26: 2025 Meeting dates

CEO Ringaround	In Person Meetings	Zoom meetings	State Council
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Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
February	CEO Ringaround	14/2/25	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Kimberley Zone	21/2/25	9am – 9:45am	Zoom
	KRG		10:00 – 12:30pm	
March	State Council meeting	5/3/25	-	WALGA
April	CEO Ringaround	4/4/25	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Travel	9/4/25	Own arrangements	Halls Creek
	Kimberley Zone	10/4/25	9am – 9:45am	
	KRG		10:00 – 12:30pm	
	Tour and Dinner		13:00pm – 21:30pm	
	Travel	11/4/25	Own arrangements	

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

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

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

**Meeting Closure: 12:16PM**