



The Hon Nola Marino MP

Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories
Federal Member for Forrest

MEDIA RELEASE

RDA PILBARA SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of RDA Pilbara in supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Led by Chair Cr Fiona White-Hartig, RDA Pilbara's engagement with their community, businesses and all levels of Government has been vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

This work is important to managing impacts and ensuring communities and businesses are able to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Key activities being undertaken by RDA Pilbara include:

- Creating a campaign to direct businesses to available assistance to help them manage the impacts of COVID-19 and recover; and
- In collaboration with the region's Chambers of Commerce and Industry, surveying residents to obtain data that can be used to inform decision making by Governments and local stakeholders. The information has led to the establishment of a number of industry-specific action groups in the Pilbara, which are now driving recovery tailored to the needs of each industry.

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) have played and continue to play an important role in delivering sustainable infrastructure and services to their region. These Committees deliver important work in consulting with communities, promoting and participating in regional initiatives, and providing information and advice on their region to all levels of Government.

Since late March I have been holding regular teleconferences with RDA representatives three times a week. These conversations provided first-hand insights into how local communities are coping, and the impact and effectiveness of Government response measures. This local intelligence is provided directly to Government ministers and agencies to inform policymaking.

I want to thank the RDA Pilbara committee members and staff for their work in driving positive change in your local communities.

If you would like to learn more about how RDA Pilbara is able to assist you, visit its website at www.rdapilbara.org.au/.

Further information about the RDA program is available at www.rda.gov.au.