

Quarterly Report for RDA Pilbara 1st October to 31st December 2018

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Pilbara is committed to achieving regional growth, economic diversification, job creation and development across the Pilbara. The following demonstrates the work achieved by the RDA Pilbara committee and employees during the period of 1st October to 31st December 2018.

- **Submission – Inquiry into how the mining sector can support businesses in regional economies**

RDA Pilbara, in October, provided a submission to the Standing Committee on the inquiry into how the development of the mining sector can support businesses in regional economies.

To seek more information or read the submissions you can visit:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Industry_Innovation_Science_and_Resources/MiningSector/Submissions

- **West Pilbara Communities for Children Initiative**

RDA Pilbara, in October, announced the success in securing a renewal of funding from the Department of Social Services for the West Pilbara Communities for Children Initiative. This funding has been extended from June 2019 to June 2020.

This renewal provides an exciting opportunity for current community partners to continue delivering the successful programmes that are being offered free to the community within the West Pilbara.



Those programmes are delivered by and include:

- Yaandina Family Centre – Exploring Together – Roebourne and Karratha;
- PCYC – Drumbeat, Footy Fundamentals, Kids Safe Space and School Holidays Kids Safe Space – Roebourne
- Karratha Community House – Drumbeat, Parent-Child Mother Goose - Karratha;
- Pilbara Health Network – Circle of Security - Karratha and Wickham;
- EPIC – Fun Friends, Friends for Life, Tuning into Kids and Drumbeat - Karratha and Dampier;
- V Swans – Parent-Child Mother Goose - Onslow; and
- Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Ltd – Ranger for Life - Tom Price.

RDA Pilbara continues to look forward to supporting the empowerment of children, families and communities through the innovative programmes, in response to community needs.

- **Building Better Regions Fund – Round Three**

The Building Better Regions Fund – Round Three closed mid-November and RDA Pilbara provided several letters of support to organisations seeking funding through the Infrastructure Projects stream and the Community Investments stream.

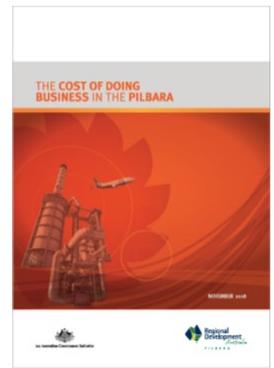
RDA Pilbara continually seeks and advertises funding grants for the Pilbara community to enable growth and stimulate the local economy.

- **Cost of Doing Business in the Pilbara**

On the 23rd December RDA Pilbara released the Cost of Doing Business in the Pilbara 2018 report.

Between 2013 and 2015 RDA Pilbara undertook studies on the cost of doing business in the Pilbara and this newest release is the 4th edition in the series. After a gap of three years the study has been updated in 2018 which has seen a change in the enabling business environment, as the outlook has improved. From a policy perspective economic development in the Pilbara remains critical to the fortunes of WA and the nation.

The study has been undertaken after consultations with a wide range of stakeholders in the main centres of Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman and Onslow. Whilst this report has a focus on costs it also analyses opportunities and has an emphasis on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and business start-ups.



The report presents developments and forecasts for the global economy and commodity markets as these are the main drivers of levels of investment and production in the Pilbara, business opportunities for SMEs and the cost structure of the region in the main towns in the Pilbara. Analysis of developments in the economy is an essential input into the cost estimation process.

The results and conclusions will be used to:

- Inform businesses and NGOs about the business environment, the prevailing cost structure and future costs, to improve planning and operations; and
- Inform government agencies so that policy formulation can be adjusted to take the prevailing costs into account.

For a copy of the report please visit: <http://www.rdapilbara.org.au/publications.aspx>

- **RDA Pilbara Ministerial Meetings**

Fiona White-Hartig, Chair of RDA Pilbara held numerous successful meetings with Federal Ministers in Canberra, in late November, to raise awareness of several exciting business opportunities seeking funding and support from the Government to invest in the Pilbara's economy.

- **Presentations and Meetings**

With the release of the Cost of Doing Business in the Pilbara 2018 report, Diane Pentz CEO presented to the City of Karratha, Town of Port Hedland and Shire of Ashburton councils regarding the findings in November and December. These presentations have been well received and provided the Councils with important information relating to cost differences within the region and as an overall to Perth.

RDA Pilbara continues to attend regular meetings with key stakeholders from Chamber of Minerals and Energy, Rio Tinto, Chevron, Woodside, Roy Hill, FMG, Pilbara Port Authority and BHP to provide support and information being exchanged.

- **ACCC Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry**

The ACCC released, in December, the first interim report into insurance costs in Northern Australia. RDA Pilbara continues to follow and provide feedback and information relevant to the Pilbara as the Study on Insurance and Banking report completed in 2015 has been strongly helpful to the inquiry.

Please visit the attached link to access a copy of the interim report: <https://www.accc.gov.au/focus-areas/inquiries/northern-australia-insurance-inquiry/first-interim-report>

The inquiry is seeking submissions to the draft recommendations contained in the report and is due to close on Friday 12th April 2019.

For more information relating to any of the above mentioned projects please contact Diane Pentz, Chief Executive Officer via email: ceo@rdapilbara.org.au or visit the RDA Pilbara website for regular news updates: www.rdapilbara.org.au.