



**THE
KIMBERLEY
REGIONAL GROUP**

Meeting Minutes

25 September 2025

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1. Meeting Open: 9.00am

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people met today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel (Chair)	President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	In Person
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	In Person
Jeff Gooding	Commissioner, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Cr Desiree Male	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Broome	In Person
Observers		
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	In Person
Cr Melanie Virgo	Councillor, Shire of Broome	In Person
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	In Person
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	In Person
Executive Support Team		
Paul Rosair	Principal, NAJA Business Consulting Services	In Person
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal, Mira Consulting	Teams
Jane Lewis	Principal, Redit Research	In Person
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA	In Person
Presentations		
Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs	In Person
Hon Neil Thomson MLC	Shadow Minister for Planning and Lands; Aboriginal Affairs; Seniors	Teams
Hon Melissa Price MP	Liberal Federal Member for Durack; Shadow Minister for Cyber Security; Shadow Minister for Science	Teams
Basil Zempilas MLA	Leader of the Opposition; Leader of the WA Liberal Party; Shadow Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests	Teams
Hon Michelle Boylan MLC	Member for Western Australia; Liberal Party	Teams

Keith Williams	A/CEO Kimberley Development Commission	Teams
Apologies		
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest

4. Minutes of the last meeting

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Secretariat

Attachment 1: Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
The Minutes of the Kimberley Regional Group held on 3 July 2025, as published and circulated, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.		See Attachment 1 – Matters Arising and Outstanding Business	
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	See Attachment
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 1 Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
Administrative Matters		
11/10/2024	Review of KRG Strategic Documents Action 1. Develop a framework and consolidate the KRG strategic documents 2. Executive Team to schedule a workshop to develop a new KRG Business Plan in 2025 Status/Progress 1. In Progress. 2. In Progress. Scheduled for the November 2025 meeting	Executive Team
03/07/2025	Confirmation of Previous Minutes Action 1. Executive Officer to arrange a meeting with Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; and the Great Southern and notify members once confirmed. Status/Progress 1. In Progress. Meeting scheduled for Monday 20 October 2025	Executive Team
03/07/2025	Financial Report: Action 1. KRG Secretariat to prepare the draft 2025/26 budget for presentation at the August meeting. Status/Progress 1. Complete. Refer Item 6	KRG Secretariat
21/02/2024 & 23/08/2024 & 03/07/2025	Action: 1. Developing Northern Australia: Executive Officer to work with Dr Allan Dale regarding CRCNA. 2. Executive Officer to invite Grey Mackay from the Land Alliance to the October KRG meeting to present on bushfire issues in the Kimberley. 3. The Executive Officer and KRG Secretariat to finalise the KRG Presentation for the Developing Northern Australia Conference. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. In Progress. 3. Complete.	Executive Team / KRG Secretariat

10/04/2025	Canberra Trip: Refer Item 9 Action 1. The Executive Officer to work with the Secretariat to identify potential dates for Canberra trip(s) in 2025 and to canvas availability with members following initial discussions. 2. KRG members to advise the key stakeholders they would like meetings with in Canberra. Status/Progress 1. Complete. 9 members visited Canberra 1 & 2 September 2025 2. Complete.	Executive Team / KRG Secretariat / Members
10/04/2025	North West Defence Alliance – KRG Representative Action 1. KRG Secretariat to advise North West Defence Alliance that Geoff Haerewa is no longer a Councillor and that the KRG is working through a process for a replacement representative, and that the Alliance will be advised of the KRG representative in due course Status/Progress 1. In Progress.	KRG Secretariat
10/04/2025 & 03/07/2025	Formal Presentations: Action 1. Shires to circulate ABS job roles when advertised through networks. 2. The Executive Officer to liaise with RDA Kimberley and the DPIRD Deputy Director General, Industry and Economic Development to understand progress of a potential WA government partnership with NAIF and/or the establishment a small loans scheme similar to the Northern Territory. 3. The Executive Officer to draft an insurance position paper for KRG, in light of the RDA Kimberley Insurance Review Report 4. The Executive Officer to write to the Australian Bureau of Statistics reinforcing the importance of the Kimberley Census of Population and Housing pilot and the KRG's support for this new approach. Status/Progress 1. Ongoing: Note RDA Kimberley circulated Broome based 2026 Census Operational Support Centre Engagement Manager role which closed 15 June for Councils to circulate 2. In Progress. 3. Pending release of the RDA Kimberley Insurance Review Report 4. Complete.	Executive Officer

03/07/2025	Formal Presentations: KDC Action 1. The Executive Officer to liaise with the Acting CEO of KDC to discuss progression of the demand data, and their view on the next steps to progress the Kimberley Housing Pipeline in partnership with the WA Government. Status/Progress 1. Complete. It is our understanding that the KDC is not progressing the Housing Demand data work at this time. The KDC A/CEO is attending the September 2025 meeting and has been asked to provide an update.	Executive Officer
03/07/2025	Around the Grounds Action 1. The Executive Officer to place Regional Waste Management on the August KRG agenda with the focus - What aspect of Waste Management does it make sense for the 4 Kimberley Shires to cooperate on. Status/Progress 1. This item was deferred to the November planning workshop.	Executive Officer
WALGA Position – Native Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position		
03/07/2025	Action: 1. The Executive Officer to contact the State Government to confirm if the submission timeframe is still open. 2. The Executive Officer to explore the possibility of making a direct submission to the State's Native Clearing Regulations Review Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. Subject to outcome of Action 1.	Executive Officer
GrantGuru Proposal		
03/07/2025	Action: 1. The Executive Officer to discuss with GrantGuru the possibility of a subscription (\$2,200) for the KRG, and the KRG adding a link on the KRG website for use by community groups. 2. Individual Shires to progress discussions with GrantGuru independently. Status / Progress: 1. Complete. Grant Guru will not progress this approach 2. Complete. Shires have been advised of this approach	Executive Officer / Individual Shires

Position Papers		
10/04/2025 & 03/07/2025	Action - Executive Team to draft a Land Tenure Reform Position Paper, July 2025, with the Executive Officer to conduct a further review to ensure that the rights and opportunities of Native Title holders are reflected and that the position put forward is legally robust and practical. - The Executive Officer to send the full Land Tenure Reform report to the Commissioner for the Shire of Derby West Kimberley. - The Executive Officer to seek an update from the Kimberley Development Commission on the status of the PBC Capability Building project. Status / Progress: - In Progress. - Complete. - In Progress.	Executive Officer
Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing		
16/02/2024 & 10/04/2025	Action - Executive Officer to develop a template for members to populate to support the advocacy strategy. Status / Progress: - Paused.	Executive Officer
2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group – KRG Representative		
10/04/2025	Action - Executive Officer and KRG Members to develop a list of priority projects for consideration by the Eclipse Working Group. Status / Progress: - The Secretariat is the KRG representative on the Eclipse Working Group - It was agreed that Shires would send their project ideas to the Secretariat / the Working Group for consideration.	Executive Officer / Members
Benchmarking		
23/11/2023	Action: - Spreadsheet to be sent for 2023/24 Actuals and 2024/25 Budget. Status / Progress: - On Hold. Discussed at the Feb 2025 meeting & project paused in order to incorporate data from the 2024/25 financial year. - Requests will be issued to individual councils following the close of the 2024/2025 financial year.	Executive Team / Members

Kimberley Housing Roundtable and Housing		
23/08/2024 & 11/10/2024 & 10/04/2025 & 03/07/2025	Action - Executive Team to progress next steps from the Roundtable with each Shire, in partnership with Housing Australia, the Department of Communities, Development WA, the Housing Supply Unit, WA Department of Treasury, and non-government agencies. - That the Executive Team - Develop a brief scope of works for KDC for funding (20K) to progress the Kimberley Housing pipeline. - Work with the KDC to explore innovative solutions for the Kimberley that may attract government investment interest. - The Executive Officer to brief the Commissioner Shire of Derby West Kimberley on the work done to date on housing. - The Executive Officer provide information on the level of government subsidy required to unlock housing investment in the Kimberley - Councils to provide their project timeframes and cashflow requirements to the Executive Officer. - The Executive Officer to liaise with the Acting CEO of KDC to discuss progression of the demand data, and their view on the next steps to progress the Kimberley Housing Pipeline in partnership with the WA Government. Status / Progress: - In Progress. Shires have been asked for project timeframes with a response from one Shire received. A submission under development which brings together information requested by government including population projections, housing demand data, pipeline schedule, project governance and investment request. - A Draft Scope of Works was provided to the KDC and RDA Kimberley for input. Advice from the KDC is that they will progress this project, rolling it into a larger piece of work that includes updating their Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023. Further information will be provided by the A/CEO of KDC in her presentation. - Complete. See Briefing Note in Correspondence - Advice from a large WA community housing provider with a footprint in the Kimberley is that the level of subsidy required, is based on the total project cost, the estimated annual income, who retains ownership, how much debt is required and who would provide that finance. Housing Australia provides a 25 year Availability Payment (AP) as part of the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF). In essence this is rental “top up” subsidy like payment of circa \$15K per annum in addition to the annual rent receive to support provides in servicing their debt / financing commitments.	Executive Team / Members

	The AP is made available conditional upon a whole range of covenants being met such a debt service coverage ratio, loan to valuation ratio and equity contributions. If we assume the cost of a property in the Kimberley (Kununurra and Broome) is circa \$700,000, the subsidy required would be circa half or \$350,000. The Community Housing Provider could then borrow the balance against the value of the property (50% LVR) and could service the debt based on an interest rate of 5%, or \$20,000 per annum, assuming the annual rent is approximately \$26,000 or \$500 per week. The simplest way to model the subsidy is to determine the net surplus from the rent proceeds and assess what level of debt that income can afford to fund (as per above). Based on this the simplest model would involve the state funding the subsidy (~\$350,000 to \$400,000) and the CHP could then leverage HAFFF to fund the gap. 5. Pending. 6. The A/CEO of the KDC has been asked to speak on this topic at the September 2025 meeting.	
Review of Financial Assistance Grants		
23/11/2023	Action: - Executive Officer to meet with the Grants Commission to discuss submission. Status / Progress: - In Progress. Advocacy continuing.	Executive Officer
Shared Services		
20/06/2024 & 10/04/2025	Action - Executive Officer to action a stocktake of current state / any planned enterprise initiatives across the 4 shires as a prelude to determining opportunities for collaboration. - Executive Officer to organise a quarterly meeting with CEOs to progress workshop. Status / Progress: - In Progress. This was discussed at the Strategy Workshop. - Complete. Meeting held 3rd July 2025. Refer Item 11	Executive Officer / CEO's

Watching Brief

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

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

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

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

The members discussed the slow roll-out and lack of urgency regarding the implementation of First Point of Entry status in Wyndham. It was agreed that this item be carried forward under Matters Arising.

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

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

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

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

Resolved

Media and Communications Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Lord Mayors Distress Relief Funding
Insurance Costs relief as a result of flood impacts
Potential tourism opportunities for total eclipse events, provided by Kym Francesconi
Regional Road Group: Shire allocations
Regional Road Group Road Projects Funding Allocation – wrote to WALGA outlining KRG’s position
Emergency Management Policy Position – Wrote to Matt Reimer DFES
Members advised Cr Mitchell of their response to the Regional Road Group Project grant funding
Ministerial notes 15/02/24 – Minister Papalia, Minister Beazley, Premier. Sent to members 26/02/24
Requirements for the Deputy Chair position clarified and stands endorsed as per November 2023
Submissions to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding & the Senate Inquiry.
WA LEMA Review endorsed by SEMC August 2023 – uploaded on SEMC website
Emergency Services position paper endorsed 23 November 2023 meeting
Priority Action List – feedback provided by members, E.T allocate resources from contract hours
SDWK & SoHC provided bridge issues to EO. KRG wrote to State and Federal Government
State and Federal Government Election Strategy, RAI Summit 2024, position papers on website
Kimberley Housing Roundtable – Broome 29 July 2024
Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing - endorsed April 2024 meeting: issues raised with Minister Dawson 2025.
SDWK provided Infill Housing and Investigations Report
Regional Volunteering Strategy 2020 endorsed at individual council meetings. EO actioned
RCAWA approved KRG to use the benchmarking template.
Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability submitted 30 May 2024
Tanami Road Funding – KRG Media release issued, SoHC leading work on a Activation Strategy
Relationship with Kimberley Development Commission – resolved
Alcohol Restrictions: EO monitored changes in alcohol restrictions and advised accordingly
Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability - EO presented at the Public Hearing 28 August 2024
EO Contract Renewal – Feedback discussed with Secretariat & new arrangements implemented
FBT Housing – A position paper developed, and advocacy being undertaken on this issue
Submission to Clearing Legislative Reform submitted 22 nd December 2024
State & Federal Government Election Strategy – Canberra meetings Nov 2024 & 50 packs reprinted
Review of Strategic documents - status update on actions in the Business Plan at Feb 2025 meeting
Meeting held in Sydney with the CEO of Housing Australia as part of the visit to Canberra 2024
Financial Assistance Grants Position Paper developed based on the review and used for advocacy: distributed to key stakeholders, uploaded to KRG website, media release, and LinkedIn post.
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package endorsed at February 2025 meeting: Executive Summary prepared: issues raised with Minister Stojkovski 25/06/25: full report provided
Shared Services meeting held with CEOs to discuss next steps 30/07/24. Discussion focussed on staffing challenges opportunities to explore together finance and enterprise platforms
Meeting held with Karen Wheatland, Labor candidate for Durack and KRG Chair and Secretariat
Shire of Carnarvon – Vote of no confidence; Executive Officer met Minister Stojkovski on 25/06/25 re Kimberley matters.
Election advocacy, communications & engagement plan for 2025 State and Federal elections
Rates Exemptions Position Paper designed and printed as per meeting July 2025
2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group: correspondence to KDC re Tanami Rd opportunities

5. Correspondence

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Secretariat

- Attachment 2** Ben Cave; CEO; RSPCA Western Australia
- Attachment 3** Refer below for full recipient list
- Attachment 4** Hon Patrick Gorman MP; Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister; Assistant Minister for the Public Service; Assistant Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- Attachment 5** Michael Campbell; Housing Australia
- Attachment 6** Jeff Gooding PSM, JP; Commissioner; Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Attachment 7** Jenny Telford; General Manager; Census and Population Division Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Attachment 8** Divina D'Anna MLA; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification; Member for the Kimberley
- Attachment 9** Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley

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

Correspondence In	
Date	14/08/2025
From	Ben Cave; CEO; RSPCA Western Australia
Topic	Information about the RSPCA WA's Kimberley wide opportunity for the KRG CEO meeting 15 August 2025
Attachment	2
Correspondence Out	
Date	04/08/2025
From	Paul Rosair; Executive Officer KRG
To	• Patrick Gorman MP (Attached) • Hon Dr Jim Chalmers • Senator Hon Don Farrell • Hon Catherine King MP • Hon Julie Collins MP • Hon Clare O'Neil MP • Hon Madeleine King MP • Senator Hon Murray Watt • Senator Hon Malarndirri McCarthy • Hon Kristy McBain MP • Senator Hon Anthony Chisholm

	• Hon Josh Wilson MP • Senator Hon Nita Green • Hon David Littleproud MP • Senator Susan McDonald • Senator Jacinta Nampiljinpa Price • Senator Dean Smith • Kate Chaney MP • Brendan Moon; NEMA • Melissa Price MP • Hon Dr Anne Aly MP • Hon Anika Wells MP • Senator Hon Bridget McKenzie • Dr Anne Webster MP • Senator Glenn Sterle • Senator Ellie Whiteaker • Senator Varun Ghosh • Senator Matt O'Sullivan
Topic	Meeting Request with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra
Attachment	3
Date	01/08/2025
From	Paul Rosair; Executive Officer KRG
To	Hon Patrick Gorman MP; Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister; Assistant Minister for the Public Service; Assistant Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Topic	Assistance with securing meetings in Canberra
Attachment	4
Date	04/08/2025
From	Michelle Mackenzie; Executive Support KRG
To	Michael Campbell; Housing Australia
Topic	Meeting opportunity
Attachment	5
Date	04/08/2025
From	Paul Rosair; Executive Officer KRG
To	Jeff Gooding PSM, JP; Commissioner; Shire of Derby West Kimberley
Topic	KRG – Housing Briefing Note
Attachment	6
Date	10/09/2025
From	Paul Rosair; Executive Officer KRG
To	Jenny Telford, General Manager, Census and Population Division
Topic	ABS Census 2026 Kimberley
Attachment	7
Date	22/08/2025
From	David Menzel; Chair KRG

To	Divina D'Anna MLA; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification; Member for the Kimberley
Topic	Local government rate exemptions
Attachment	8
Date	18/08/2025
From	David Menzel; Chair KRG
To	Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
Topic	Local government rate exemptions
Attachment	9

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
The Correspondence was received and noted, and the Executive Officer was directed on a response, if required.		Nil	
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	-
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 2 Correspondence In: Ben Cavers; CEO; RSPCA WA; Information about the RSPCA WA's Kimberley wide opportunity for the KRG CEO meeting 15 August 2025

Ben Cave <BCave@rspcawa.org.au>

to Michelle, Paul, me 14 August 2025 16:53

Hi Michelle,

It was lovely to catch up on Tuesday and thank you for taking my call!

I'm really keen to share our service model for the Kimberly (and regions generally) and seek engagement on how we can best work with each Shire and local police to achieve the right outcomes for animal welfare. We also want to reassure the Shires that despite not having 'boots on the ground' we are active in the region. For example:

- We were in Broome and Port Hedland in March
- We were back in Broome in April
- In May we were in Broome, Derby, & surrounding areas alongside AMRRIC
- We are in Derby today/tomorrow
- We are in Carnarvon in September
- We have a Community Action Day (CAD) in Port Hedland in October
- We are finalising plans for CADs in Broome & Karratha

Ultimately, the best outcomes will be achieved where RSPCA WA, the Shires, and WAPOL can work closely together and we're keen to explore opportunities to discuss this with the Shires.

Cheers
Ben

Ben Cave

Chief Executive Officer

RSPCA Western Australia

D 08 9209 9314 | **P** 08 9209 9300 | **W** rspcawa.org.au | **M** 0439 350 817

108 Malaga Drive, Malaga WA 6090 | PO Box 3147, Malaga WA 6944

Attachment 3 Correspondence Out: Refer above for recipient list; Meeting Request with KRG in Canberra

Meeting Request with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra

Dear Minister,

I hope this message finds you well.

I'm writing in my capacity as Executive Officer for the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG), an alliance of the four Shires in the Kimberley region of Western Australia: Broome, Derby West-Kimberley, Halls Creek, and Wyndham East-Kimberley. The KRG's vision is to maintain and enhance the Kimberley's rich diversity and liveability—for its people and for the world. Together, we work to support positive outcomes across the region by improving social and economic opportunities for all.

I, along with a delegation of Shire Presidents, CEOs, and elected members, will be in Canberra on the 1st and 2nd of September 2025, and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you during this time.

We would value the chance to hear about your ministerial portfolio priorities. In addition, we plan to raise several matters relating to key issues affecting the Kimberley region. Some of these may not fall directly within your portfolio, but we believe it is important to provide a broader context and understanding of the region's challenges and immense opportunities to drive productivity and economic growth. These include:

- Financial assistance grants and local government sustainability
- FBT housing exemptions
- Tourism with a focus on the 2028 Eclipse opportunities
- Community safety and crime prevention
- Housing
- Transport with a focus on aviation and ports
- Clean energy
- Update on the Tanami Road and associated economic and social opportunities
- Emergency management and disaster resilience

We are available on either day and are happy to accommodate your schedule.

For scheduling purposes, please liaise with **Rebecca Billing** via email at info@naja.com.au. Should you require anything further or wish to speak with me directly, I can be contacted directly on **0419 930 467**.

Further information about the Kimberley Regional Group is available on our website: [Kimberley Regional Group](#)

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Kind regards,

Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group (KRG)

Attachment 4 Correspondence Out: Hon Patrick Gorman MP; Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister; Assistant Minister for the Public Service; Assistant Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations; Assistance with securing meetings in Canberra

Dear Patrick,

I hope this message finds you well.

Following my recent conversation with you at the Government Forum and discussions with your Electorate Officer, Harry Saunders, I would like to formally take up your kind offer to assist in arranging meetings with Ministers during our visit to Canberra on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd of September 2025.

We would greatly value the opportunity to meet with you and would also appreciate your assistance in facilitating meetings with the following members:

- Dr Jim Chalmers MP
- Senator Don Farrell
- The Hon Catherine King MP
- The Hon Julie Collins MP
- The Hon Clare O'Neil MP
- The Hon Madeleine King MP
- Senator Murray Watt
- Senator Malarndirri McCarthy
- The Hon Kristy McBain MP
- Senator Anthony Chisholm
- The Hon Josh Wilson MP
- Senator Nita Green

During our visit, we intend to raise several matters relating to key issues affecting the Kimberley region. We believe it is important to provide a broader context and understanding of the region's challenges and immense opportunities to drive productivity and economic growth. The topics we plan to discuss include:

- Financial assistance grants and local government sustainability
- FBT housing exemptions
- Tourism with a focus on the 2028 Eclipse opportunities
- Community safety and crime prevention
- Housing
- Transport with a focus on aviation and ports
- Clean energy
- Update on the Tanami Road and associated economic and social opportunities
- Total Eclipse 2028 opportunities
- Emergency management and disaster resilience

Should you require any further information to assist with coordination, please liaise with Rebecca Billing at info@naja.com.au. I am also available directly on **0419 930 467**.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Kimberley region. We look forward to continuing the conversation in Canberra.

Kind regards,

Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group (KRG)

Attachment 5 Correspondence Out: Michael Campbell; Housing Australia; Meeting opportunity

Michelle Mackenzie <michelle@mira-consulting.com.au>

to michael.campbell@housingaustralia.gov.au, mike.campbell@housingaustralia.gov.au, P&

4 August 2025 11:44

Hi Michael

Thanks so much for the voicemail message it was greatly appreciated.

It would be great to catch up with you to progress a couple of issues that the Kimberley Regional Group of local governments we were discussing with Luke Bo'sher then with Jane Homewood, in particular the Kimberley Housing Pipeline projects that were put together at the request of Housing Australia.

It would be great to touch base to provide an update on this work, and to get your views on the best way forward.

All the best and kind regards

Michelle

Michelle Mackenzie

Principal, Mira Consulting

Associate, NAJA Business Consulting

Executive Support, Kimberley Regional Group

ABN: 43 324 130 482

M: 0419 931 819

E: michelle@mira-consulting.com.au

W: mira-consulting.com.au

**A: PO Box 621 Halls Creek
WA 6770**

Jaru and Gija Country

Attachment 6 Correspondence Out: Jeff Gooding PSM, JP; Commissioner; Shire of Derby West Kimberley; KRG Housing Briefing Note



Kimberley Regional Group - Briefing Note

From: Paul Rosair, Executive Officer Kimberley Regional Group

Date: 4 August 2025

Topic: Kimberley Regional Group Housing Work

To: Commissioner, Shire of Derby West Kimberley

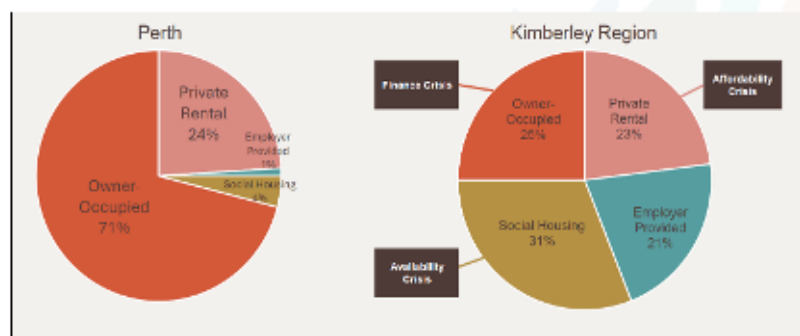
Introduction

At the July 2025 Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) meeting there was an action to provide the Commissioner Shire of Derby West Kimberley with information on what has been done by the KRG in relation to housing. The purpose of this briefing note is to provide this information.

Context

Work undertaken by the Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) corroborates issues identified by the Kimberley Regional Group in relation to Kimberley housing challenges¹. KDC research identified that the Kimberley housing market faces significant affordability and availability challenges, limiting options for residents and workers. The current housing landscape is shaped by a shrinking pipeline of new housing, rising rental costs outpacing modest growth in home values, as well as broader economic and social pressures. Lack of affordable finance and supply constraints, combined with a limited supply of private rentals, continue to place pressure on the housing market with negative social and economic outcomes.

Compared to Perth, Kimberley home ownership rates are markedly lower, with a greater reliance on social and employer-provided housing. This is outlined in the following table². Housing challenges vary across each Shire including the level of owner occupied homes and access to developable land. For example, in the Shire of Halls Creek there is no functioning housing market with 80% of homes owned by the WA government and limited land availability.



¹ Kimberley Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023, Kimberley Development Commission, 2023.

² Kimberley Development Commission Housing Snapshot, February 2025.



The Kimberley Regional Group has developed a number of strategies to raise awareness, foster collaboration and increase investment into land and new homes in the Kimberley. Strategies include -

- Access to contemporary data to inform evidence-based decisions
- Advocacy for policy reform to remove disincentives to housing investment
- Development of a viable pipeline of housing projects in partnership with government and the NGO sector, utilising identified land assets, to leverage investment into new supply
- Advocacy for increased access to and availability of funding and finance including -
 - increased government investment in social, GROH and affordable housing
 - increased investment in land release and enabling infrastructure (i.e. water, power)
 - increased investment in social housing maintenance and refurbishments
- Streamlining planning and regulation
- Advocacy for culturally and climate appropriate housing design and construction
- Advocacy for increased workforce capacity
- Understand the community housing sector as a vehicle for the financing, delivery, and management of housing projects

There has been third party buy-in and advocacy of KRG policy positions by the Broome and East Kimberley Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Regional Development Australia Kimberley. It must be noted that the 2025 State and Federal government elections, along with senior staff changes at Housing Australia, impacted on the progression of work.

Work undertaken to date

Informed evidence base	
Actions	Outcomes to date
Advocacy for the Kimberley Development Commission to • produce a Kimberley Regional Housing and Land Snapshot, similar to the long standing document produced by the Pilbara Development Commission • to provide ongoing housing data snapshots • support housing demand data per Shire	• KDC Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023 produced • Ongoing Shire snapshots produced and published on the KDC website • Updated KDC Residential Housing and Land Snapshot in development • Preliminary commitment from the KDC to fund housing demand data per Shire
Advocacy for updated data from the Department of Communities	• Data provided on request
Advocacy for the Kimberley Regional Housing Plan to be available in draft for comment	• Confirmation of the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plans in 2026



Housing Policy Reform	
KRG Housing Position Paper (March 2023 updated July 2024) and ongoing advocacy for policy reform.	Dept of Communities and Treasury review of GROH policy along with review of TRSF (Tenant Rent Setting Framework) and HOSS (Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme)
Research commissioned on FBT housing impacts in the Kimberley	- Research document produced - Position paper developed
KRG FBT Housing Position Paper April 2025 and ongoing advocacy	Awareness raising of this issue across government and the community
Meetings with Ministers and staff at the Office of Northern Australia, advocacy for our policy positions and input into their Housing Report for the Ministerial Advisory Council (also relates to increased access to funding and finance)	Awaiting report release – expected October 2025
Input into the RDA Kimberley Insurance Review	Awaiting report release – expected August 2025
Increased access to and availability of funding and finance	
Federal advocacy for a dedicated regional funding stream through Housing Australia	Commitment from Federal Minister for Housing and Housing Australia to consider targeted regional funding stream
Understand the growth of the community housing sector in the Kimberley as a vehicle for the financing, delivery, and management of housing projects	- Understanding the rating impact and mitigation options - Understanding the level of subsidy required by the sector to build / operate in the Kimberley
Host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable, July 2024	- Obtained funding from the KDC and RDA Kimberley to host the Roundtable. - Agreement from Housing Australia to consider a dedicated regional funding stream and to consider a Kimberley Regional Housing Pipeline.
Development of a Kimberley Regional Housing Pipeline for investment	Housing pipeline in development along with supporting documents
Advocacy for a small loans scheme via NAIF review	NAIF Review Report pending



Advocacy for increased government investment in land and housing	
Meetings with State and Federal Housing, Treasury and Land Ministers and Shadow Ministers and senior bureaucrats Pre-budget submissions for increased housing investment	Building trusted relationships and exploring housing partnership opportunities.
Advocacy for more purpose built GROH housing	- Increase of 44 GROH homes between 31/12/2023 and 30/4/2025 - Commitment for 20 new GROH homes across the Kimberley (2025/26 State Budget)
Advocacy for more social housing	Increase of 147 social homes between 31/12/2023 and 30/4/2025
Advocacy for increased investment in social housing maintenance	- Data obtained - Advocacy document in development
Advocacy for more affordable housing	- Keystart loan changes \$5 million for Kununurra Water Lily Place Housing (2025/26 State budget)
Advocacy for increased enabling infrastructure	\$5.3 million from the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund for wastewater infrastructure to enable up to 550 residential lots in Kununurra (2025/26 State budget)

Attachments to this Briefing Note

The following documents accompany this Briefing Note as context for this work

- Kimberley Housing Roundtable Report, July 2024
- KRG Housing Position Paper
- KRG Housing FBT Position Paper
- Kimberley Housing Pipeline (project list – noting a supporting document is in development)
- Builder Fact Sheet Kimberley Region

Attachment 7 Correspondence Out: Jenny Telford; General Manager; Census and Population Division; ABS Census 2026 Kimberley



Ms. Jenny Telford
General Manager, Census and Population Division
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Via Email - Jenny.Telford@abs.gov.au

10 September 2025

Dear Jenny

2026 Census – Planning for the Kimberley

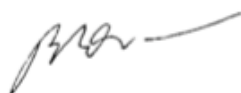
The Kimberley Regional Group is an alliance of the four Kimberley local governments. We are pleased that the ABS identified the issues that faced the Kimberley during the 2021 Census, including the centralized field operations management. This impacted on the ABS's ability to recruit staff, manage logistics, undertake community engagement, and enable people to participate in the Census. The Census is important as it has a direct impact on all Kimberley local government's financial ability to provide the amenities and services needed by residents.

We would like to thank your team for their consultation and engagement with the region and strongly support your new approach for the 2026 Census. The establishment of operational support centres in the Kimberley, and the recruitment of staff who have local knowledge and relationships across the region, should address a number of issues identified with the operation of the 2021 Census.

Given the importance of the Census, the Kimberley Regional Group would welcome an update on the planning for the 2026 Census in the Kimberley and to discuss possible avenues of collaboration.

If you have any queries regarding this request, please contact me on mobile 0419 930467 or via email at paul@naja.com.au. The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to hearing from you and how we can work together to deliver Census 2026 in the Kimberley.

Yours sincerely



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer

c Josh Lowrie, Assistant Director Census Enumeration Approach

Attachment 8 Correspondence Out: Divina D'Anna MLA; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification; Member for the Kimberley; Local government rate exemptions



Ms Divina D'Anna MLA
Member for the Kimberley
PO Box 3643
Broome WA 6725

Via email – Divina.DAnna@mp.wa.gov.au

22 August 2025

Dear Divina

Local government rate exemptions

I trust you are well, it was great to see you at the recent Cotton Gin opening in Kununurra. The Kimberley Regional Group writes to express its concern at proposed legislative changes regarding the rating of miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*.

Rates contribute to the delivery of important local government services including roads, waste management, libraries, recreational and sporting facilities and public health. When properties are exempt from rates, the shortfall in revenue must be made up by other ratepayers, or by cutting back on important Council services.

The WA Supreme Court has ruled that Crown land subject to a miscellaneous licence and occupied is rateable, affirming the principle that local governments may levy rates on such properties recognising the significant infrastructure and occupation associated with these licences.

On the 2nd of August 2025, the WA State Government announced its intention to legislate amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to exempt land under miscellaneous licences from rating land.

We write to seek your support for an appropriate committee to undertake a broad review into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. This review would include the impact of rate exemptions for miscellaneous licences, charitable organisations and for government trading enterprises, who instead of paying rates to local government, make a rate equivalent payment to the WA Treasury.

Rate exemptions go to the heart of the financial sustainability of local governments. The impact of rate exemptions is more keenly felt in regional Councils like the Kimberley due to our remote location and our size which requires services to be delivered across large distances.



The Kimberley Regional Group can only achieve our vision to enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley if we receive appropriate income, including rate payments, to enable our communities to flourish. We hope that you will advocate for our request for a broad review into the fairness of local government rate exemptions. If you have any queries on this request, please contact Mr Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer on mobile 0419930467 or email paul@naja.com.au.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach – KRG Position Paper Rate Exemptions

Attachment 9 Correspondence Out: Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley; Local government rate exemptions



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley

Via email – Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au

18 August 2025

Dear Minister Dawson

Local government rate exemptions

I trust you are well; it was great to see you at the recent Developing Northern Australia Conference in Cairns.

The Kimberley Regional Group writes to express its concern at proposed legislative changes regarding the rating of miscellaneous licences under the *Mining Act 1978*.

Rates contribute to the delivery of important local government services including roads, waste management, libraries, recreational and sporting facilities and public health. When properties are exempt from rates, the shortfall in revenue must be made up by other ratepayers, or by cutting back on important Council services.

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Rate exemptions go to the heart of the financial sustainability of local governments. The impact of rate exemptions is more keenly felt in regional Councils like the Kimberley due to our remote location and our size which requires services to be delivered across large distances.



The Kimberley Regional Group can only achieve our vision to enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley if we receive appropriate income, including rate payments, to enable our communities to flourish. We hope that you will advocate for our request for a broad review into the fairness of local government rate exemptions. If you have any queries on this request, please contact Mr Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer on mobile 0419930467 or email paul@naja.com.au.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach – KRG Position Paper Rate Exemptions

6. Financial Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Vernon Lawrence, KRG Secretariat

Attachment 10: Kimberley Regional Group Financial Report to 30 June 2025

Purpose

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

In summary

This report presents the Kimberley Regional Group Financial Activity Statement for the period ended 30 June 2025. 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. A revised opening cash position was presented to the KRG at its meeting on 21 February 2025 where the surplus was revised up from \$67,513 to \$80,802 and a cash balance up from \$329,989 to \$343,278 due to increased interest income.

This report is for the financial activity to 30 June 2025.

Comment

The Financial Activity Statement presents a current estimated surplus position of \$261,374 which is represented by a cash balance held in a Reserve with the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. This amount takes into account all costs paid to 30 June 2025 and accrued expenses, members contributions received and an estimate of interest income amounting to \$11,586.

Operating expenses for the year to date total \$273,490. This includes project work of \$100,845, executive fees of \$133,098 and trip expenses of \$31,594. The Canberra trip expenses includes a contribution by the KRG for members to attend the Regional Australia Institute Conference and associated expenses for the secretariat to attend meetings. It also includes an amount of \$10,490 for members to attend the Developing Northern Australia Conference which will be held in July 2025 in Cairns.

Project expenses for the year to date total \$100,845 and comprise the following:

Rate Exemptions	\$ 235
Benchmarking report	\$ 5,945
Budget Document to Federal Treasury	\$ 1,900
Election Document & Strategy	\$17,009

FA Grants	\$24,188
Fringe Benefits Tax policy paper	\$ 2,000
Community safety	\$32,068
Housing Roundtable	\$17,500

The budget for the financial year for projects was \$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.

It is clear that the amounts budgeted for project work was not adequate. Four significant projects have been undertaken during the year. The election documentation and strategy for both State and Federal elections, the Housing Roundtable, the Community Safety Project and the FA Grants Project which all total to approximately \$90k. The Community Safety project and the FA Grants projects were subject to a procurement process and awarded to NAJA. Both projects have come in at the quoted amounts.

An additional disbursement from reserves is necessary to fully fund the project work. Total project costs are underfunded by \$50,845 for the financial year relative to the budget provided. The final transfer from the reserve has been determined to be \$81,904 which is \$38,404 more than the amount budgeted.

CONSULTATION

Nil.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Financial Implications

As at the 30 June 2025 the Kimberley Regional Group cash balance is \$261,374 which represents the total of the Members interests at this date.

For the period ending 30 June 2025 Expenses of \$273,490 were paid against a year to date budget of \$228,500. No disbursements have been made against a number of expense items. An amount of \$100,845 has been disbursed for Projects against a budget of \$50,000. 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.

The budget income is \$185,000 against actuals of \$191,586. An appropriation of \$81,904 was made from the reserve against a budgeted amount of \$43,500. This was to fund the deficit of \$38,404. The deficit comprises an overspend on project funds of \$50,845, an underspend on other operational items of \$5,855 and additional income of \$6,586.

Strategic Implications

Governance Goal – A collaborative group demonstrating strong regional governance:

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

Secure funding for regional initiatives

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor			
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The Kimberley Regional Group noted: - the Financial Activity Statement for the period ending 30 June 2025; - the \$38,404 budget deficit and the reasons for the deficit; and - the total member interest of \$261,374 at 30 June 2025 is represented by cash held in Reserves.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	Due date:	-
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 10: Kimberley Regional Group Financial Report to 30 June 2025

Kimberley Regional Group - Financial Activity Statement for the period ending 30 June 2025	Adjusted Annual Budget 2024/25	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date
Expenditure			
Kimberley Regional Group - Zone & RCG Meeting Expenses	6,000	6,000	6,252
Kimberley Regional Group - Canberra Delegation Expenses	10,000	10,000	31,594
Kimberley Regional Group - Annual Financial Audit	5,000	5,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - IT Support	1,000	1,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Sundry Expenses	1,000	1,000	463
Kimberley Regional Group - Policy creation	4,000	4,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Website upgrade	2,000	2,000	1,238
Kimberley Regional Group - Projects	50,000	50,000	100,845
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy	139,500	139,500	133,098
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy - reimbursable costs	5,000	5,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - North West Defence Alliance	5,000	5,000	-
	228,500	228,500	273,490
Income			
Kimberley Regional Group - Reimbursement Zone & RCG Meetings Expenses - Op Inc	- 2,000	- 2,000	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Members Contribution Secretariat Costs - Op Inc	- 180,000	- 180,000	- 180,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Disbursement from Reserve.	- 43,500	- 43,500	- 43,500
Kimberley Regional Group - Interest on Reserve - Op Inc.	- 3,000	- 3,000	- 11,586
	- 228,500	- 228,500	- 235,086
Net Operating Result	-	-	38,404
Opening Cash Balance	343,278	343,278	343,278
Outstanding Contributions			
Appropriation from Reserve	- 43,500	- 43,500	- 81,904
Closing Cash Balance	299,778	299,778	261,374
Kimberley Regional Group - Projects			
Rate Exemptions			235
Benchmarking report			5,945
Budget submission to Federal Treasury			1,900
Election Document			17,009
FA Grants			24,188
Fringe Benefits Tax policy paper			2,000
Community safety			32,068
Housing Roundtable			17,500
			100,845

7. Kimberley Regional Group Annual Budget 2025/26

Item for Endorsement

Submitted by: Vernon Lawrence, KRG Secretariat

Attachment 11: Kimberley Regional Group Proposed Annual Budget 2025/26

Purpose

To advise the members of the proposed 2025/26 Annual Budget

In summary

This report presents the proposed 2025/26 Kimberley Zone of WALGA and Kimberley Regional Group Annual Budget for approval.

Background

Previous Considerations

At the 23 August 2024 KRG meeting the following motion was passed.

KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPORT RECOMMENDATION

Minute No. KRG 082024/007

Moved: Shire of Broome

Seconded: Shire of Derby West Kimberley

That the Kimberley Regional Group endorse the 2024/25 Kimberley Regional Group Annual Budget as attached.

CARRIED: 3/0

The Secretariat has prepared a Draft Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) 2025/26 Annual Budget which outlined proposed income and expenditure and indicated a balanced budget for the year ending 30 June 2026.

In considering the Draft KRG 2025/26 Annual Budget members noted the estimated budgeted \$261,374 overall surplus from the 2024/25 financial year. No provision has been made for project work as this needs to be determined after a strategic planning session scheduled for November. Members contributions have been kept at the same level as in previous years.

Comment

The Draft 2024/25 Annual Budget (Attachment 1) was developed with regard to historical expenditure while also considering projects in process, service delivery methods and increases in local government CPI. The current budget has not considered any project work due to the fact that the KRG may have two new Shire Presidents who may want input into priorities for the KRG. These priorities and potential projects will be determined at the November strategic planning session.

The budget is a balanced one with member contributions covering the ordinary operations of the KRG and a conservative estimate for interest earned on invested funds. No funds have been budgeted to be taken out of the reserve.

The budget takes into account the appointment of NAJA who will undertake the administrative functions of the Kimberley Regional Group and the Zone for the 2025/26 financial year. The contract was awarded initially for two years and provided for two extensions of one year. It is assumed that an extension under the contract will be approved by members and accepted by NAJA. As the contract term does not coincide with the financial year the budget covers the contract terms for part of the second year of their contract and the remainder of the financial year the terms agreed for the third year. The Executive Officers Fee has been estimated at \$150k which is approximately 7.5% more than 2024/25 budget. The exact increase will be determined after a review of the current year services has been undertaken.

No amounts for project work have been allocated pending the outcome of the strategic planning session. Funding for Canberra have increased by \$2k over the previous year budget. No provision has been made for the North West Defence Alliance.

The estimated carry forward KRG funds amounts to \$261,374 comprises entirely of cash and has taken into account accruals paid after the financial year end.

Operating expenditure for the 2025/26 Draft Annual Budget totals \$183,000 (2024/25 - \$228,500 including project expenditure of \$50,000). Member contributions have been included at \$45,000 each to cover operating costs which is the same as 2024/25.

CONSULTATION

Nil.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Financial Implications

The budget is the primary financial plan for the 2025/26 financial year. The intention is that the budget will be balanced such that all expenditures are matched by revenues. The budget is presented as a balanced budget.

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

Recognition of Kimberley Local Government issues and opportunities

Alignment and integration of regional and local priorities for member Councils

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor			
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The Kimberley Regional Group endorsed the 2025/26 Kimberley Regional Group Annual Budget as attached.			
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	-
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	-
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 11: Kimberley Regional Group Proposed Annual Budget 2025/26

Kimberley Regional Group - Proposed Annual Budget for the period ending 30 June 2026	Annual Budget 2024/25	Interim Actual 2024/25	Annual Budget 2025/26
Expenditure			
Kimberley Regional Group - Zone & RCG Meeting Expenses	6,000	6,252	6,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Canberra Delegation Expenses	10,000	31,594	12,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Annual Financial Audit	5,000	0	5,000
Kimberley Regional Group - IT Support	1,000	0	1,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Sundry Expenses	1,000	463.45	1,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Policy creation and review	4,000	0	3,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Website	2,000	1,238	2,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Projects	50,000	100,845	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy	139,500	133,098	150,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Executive Consultancy - reimbursable costs	5,000	0	3,000
Kimberley Regional Group - North West Defence Alliance	5,000	0	-
	<u>228,500</u>	<u>273,490</u>	<u>183,000</u>
Income			
Kimberley Regional Group - Reimbursement Zone & RCG Meetings Expenses - Op Inc	-2,000	0	-
Kimberley Regional Group - Members Contribution Secretariat Costs - Op Inc	-180,000	-180,000	-180,000
Kimberley Regional Group - Disbursement from Reserve.	-43,500	-81,904	
Kimberley Regional Group - Interest on Reserve - Op Inc.	-3,000	-11,586	-3,000
	<u>-228,500</u>	<u>-273,490</u>	<u>-183,000</u>
Net Operating Result	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Opening Cash Balance	343,278	343,278	261,374
Outstanding Contributions		-	
Appropriation from Reserve	-43,500	-81904	
Closing Cash Balance	<u>299,778</u>	<u>261,374</u>	<u>261,374</u>

8. 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
9:15am – 9:45am	Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs
10:30am – 10:45am	Keith Williams	A/CEO Kimberley Development Commission
11:30am – 12:00pm	Hon Neil Thomson MLC; Shadow Minister for Planning and Lands; Aboriginal Affairs; Seniors Hon Melissa Price MP; Liberal Federal Member for Durack; Shadow Minister for Cyber Security; Shadow Minister for Science Basil Zempilas MLA; Leader of the Opposition; Leader of the WA Liberal Party; Shadow Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests Hon Michelle Boylan MLC; Member for Western Australia; Liberal Party	

Key Issues Discussed

1. Water Infrastructure

- Concerns were raised regarding the lack of planning for water infrastructure to support new housing and infrastructure developments.

2. Royalties for Regions Program

- Concerns were expressed that the program is being used to fund core government services in regional areas.
- A lack of transparency and accountability in the allocation of funding was noted.

3. Regional Housing Supply

- Discussion on the impact of housing supply shortages across the region. Key points included:
 - The need to establish housing targets and implement mechanisms to drive new housing supply.
 - The Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) is engaging with the Minister for Regional Development regarding the critical need to update the 2023 Residential Housing and Land Snapshot.
 - If the Minister does not approve an update, KDC will liaise with the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) on next steps.
 - Consideration is being given to whether KDC should appoint a dedicated project coordinator to support housing supply efforts.

4. Eclipse Tender

- KDC advised that the Eclipse tender has been awarded to ARUP.

5. Regional Investment Pipeline

- KDC is progressing a Regional Investment Pipeline.
- Work is also underway on an Investment Tool designed to understand the flow from projects, such as housing and childcare

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

9. Developing Northern Australia Conference

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 12 Final Wrap DNAC 2025

Purpose

To provide an opportunity to discuss the Developing Northern Australia Conference (DNAC) and whether a similar arrangement for KRG attendance should be progressed for the 2026 DNAC in Alice Springs.

In summary

- The Developing Northern Australia Conference was held in Cairns 22-24 July
- The KRG Executive Officer, in partnership with Regional Capitals Alliance WA, brokered a proposal with the Conference organisers which saw KRG delegates registration fees reduced, the KRG logo on the conference website and the KRG promoted in the conference handbook. (total free value \$4K)
- The KRG Executive Officer (EO) chaired a Plenary Session – Governing Differently for Different Results, and the EO and CEO Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley gave a presentation on Regional Cooperation: The Kimberley Regional Group of Councils at this session.
- Attached is the Final Wrap from DNAC 2025 outlining the higher points, key themes and closing reflections from the Conference Organisers.
- Discussion is sought on whether the conference was of value and whether a similar approach should be considered for the 2026 Conference which will be held in August 2026 in Alice Springs.

Background

- As above.

Details

The following are some of the higher points identified by the conference organisers;

- Opportunity with stable Federal, State and Territory governance for coming years.
- Real time for us all to focus on Implementation of Northern Australian Action Plan/NAIF Review.
- Imminent decline in Northern-focused R&D could make a break in the investment pipeline.
- Chance for the new IRG to build on the legacy of previous IRGs and the Accord.
- Strong support from State/NT Ministers on east-west connection in our economies, and foundations in infrastructure, housing & livability.
- Strong interest from Infrastructure Australia to support a greater northern focus.
- Maintain alliances, collaboration and momentum

The following are the emerging post conference themes for action

- Early action needed to ensure foundations maintained for place-based R&D, capacity and partnership building.

- Need to move quickly on NAIF Review response, a create the long term institutional architecture to build the investment pipeline.
- Indigenous economic self-determination requires a focus on supporting governance, country-plans and tenure resolution.
- Move towards an Indo-Pacific-Northern Aus Roadmap and capacity to align the north with the Indo-Pacific in biosecurity, climate defence and economic cooperation.
- Real opportunity to integrate sustainable energy and water development opportunities for real economic change.
- Real opportunity for a Northern Australian Universities Compact and Northern Workforce Roadmap.
- Time to action a major enabling Infrastructure vision and agenda to better connect our northern economies.
- Climate and biodiversity risks are existential for us, but there are pathways forward.
- A productivity focus is needed on normalizing place-based approaches to solving complex problems.
- Ensuring the pre-conditions are in place for a successful 2026 northern census

Risk

Reputational: If the KRG does not take the opportunity to promote its agenda at a significant regional conference

Financial: If the conference does not provide good value for money

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		TBC	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG discussed the value of the Developing Northern Australia Conference 2025 and attendance at the 2026 Developing Northern Australia Conference in Alice Springs. The Executive Officer to explore early bird pricing and confirm member attendance post local governments elections.		The Executive Officer to negotiate early bird pricing with Developing Northern Australia and consult members post local government elections on attendance at the 2026 Conference.	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 12: Final Wrap DNAC 2025



Cairns 2025

Theme - Securing Australia's Future Through Northern Development

Some Higher Points:

- Opportunity with stable Federal, State and Territory governance for coming years.
- Real time for us all to focus on Implementation of Northern Australian Action Plan/NAIF Review.
- Imminent decline in Northern-focused R&D could make a break in the investment pipeline.
- Chance for the new IRG to build on the legacy of previous IRGs and the Accord.
- Strong support from State/NT Ministers on east-west connection in our economies, and foundations in infrastructure, housing & livability.
- Strong interest from Infrastructure Australia to support a greater northern focus.
- Maintain alliances, collaboration and momentum.



Emerging Post Conference Themes 2025 for Action

- Early action needed to ensure foundations maintained for place-based R&D, capacity and partnership building.
- Need to move quickly on NAIF Review response, a create the long term institutional architecture to build the investment pipeline.
- Indigenous economic self determination requires a focus on supporting governance, country-plans and tenure resolution.
- Move towards an Indo-Pacific-Northern Aus Roadmap and capacity to align the north with the Indo-Pacific in biosecurity, climate defence and economic cooperation.
- Real opportunity to integrate sustainable energy and water development opportunities for real economic change.
- Real opportunity for a Northern Australian Universities Compact and Northern Workforce Roadmap.
- Time to action a major enabling Infrastructure vision and agenda to better connect our northern economies.
- Climate and biodiversity risks are existential for us, but there are pathways forward.
- A productivity focus is needed on normalizing place-based approaches to solving complex problems.
- Ensuring the pre-conditions are in place for a successful 2026 northern census.



Some Closing Reflections for DNAC's Future

- **DNAC remains a place where complex ideas can be safely contested/resolved.**
- **Chance to celebrate 11 years/importance of DNAC in keeping a focus on the north.**
- **Real opportunity to step back and consider the model/models for the longer term.**
- **While a strong and growing model, more needed to continue to widen representation and review price-point affordability.**
- **Could consider growing a DNAC family of events in local communities (e.g. Western Cape, NA R&D Conf., Canberra Forum, etc.**
- **New gen of support on strategy/delivery via key drivers (CRC/NAUA/RDAs/NAIF/ONA).**
- **Might consider localized *and* regular chair.**

10. KRG September 2025 Canberra Meetings

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 13 Canberra Itinerary 1-2 September

Attachment 14 Canberra LinkedIn Post

Purpose

To provide an opportunity to discuss the outcome of the KRG meetings in Canberra and whether another visit to Canberra should be scheduled, and if so when.

In summary

- KRG delegates attended a series of meetings in Canberra on the 1st and 2nd of September with members of the government, the opposition and government agencies.
- The purpose of the meetings was to advocate for increased focus and investment in the Kimberley
- Attached is the schedule of meetings that were held
- This item provides the opportunity to reflect on the value of the meetings in Canberra and whether another visit to Canberra should be scheduled, and if so when.

Background

The KRG has decided to schedule meetings in Canberra with members of parliament and government agencies. KRG delegates who attended the meetings in September 2025 were CEO and President Shire of Broome, CEO and President Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, President Shire of Halls Creek, CEO Shire of Derby West Kimberley. The KRG Executive Officer attended the meetings.

Details

Attached is the itinerary of the two days of meetings.

Key outcomes from the Canberra meetings include:

Senator Glenn Sterle; Senator for WA; Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee; Deputy Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- East Kimberley Runway Project update noted.
- Progress on Tanami Road (28kms completed, NT border expected by 2031); highlighted Aboriginal employment outcomes and need for supporting infrastructure (light industrial area and housing).
- Senator Sterle to progress discussions with Shelly Archer and Minister Madeleine King regarding a joint Kimberley visit/tour, with potential involvement from Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Minister Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Social Services.
- Discussion on Cashless Debit Card and recognition of the importance of the East Kimberley MOU between three tiers of government.
- Concern raised regarding cessation of Nexus flights to Darwin.
- Acknowledgement of urgent funding needs for the 2028 Eclipse and Sanctuary Village Project.

- Interest from Premier Roger Cook in modular housing solutions noted.
- Overview provided on Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).

Brendan Moon; CEO | Dr Jill Charker; Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Group | Joe Buffone; Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response Group; National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

- Overview of the Kununurra funded project provided.
- Disaster Recovery Funding (DRF) Round 3:
 - Shire of Broome noted pending BRAC application.
 - Discussion of lateral roads safety on the Dampier Peninsula.
 - Brendan suggested engagement with DFES in WA for joint submission (Shire of Broome/WA State Government) to support evacuation planning and test system regarding land tenure.
- Emergency management and cyclone risk discussed; NAFI funding queried.
- Recommendation to prioritise sealing of Dampier Peninsula roads.
- Shire of Derby-West Kimberley (SDWK):
 - Recovery challenges outlined.
 - Funding for waste facility delayed due to EPA approvals; issues with Eastern Hub facility in Fitzroy.
 - Dr Charker suggested SDWK seek an extension through DRFWA.
- Betterment and payment timing:
 - Noted that SWEK reimbursed \$800k, with \$400k outstanding.
- Tanami Road update provided.
- Mitigation in Aboriginal communities:
 - Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK) requested that NEMA advocate to State Government or consider funding.
- Insurance premiums: Discussion; Dr Charker suggested raising with Senator Dean Smith.

Senator The Hon Anthony Chisholm; Senator for Queensland; Assistant Minister for Regional Development; Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Assistant Minister for Resources

- Overview provided on the KRG Housing Pipeline and Sanctuary Village Project.
- Discussion on KRG Community Safety Package.
- Local Government sustainability raised, including Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).
- Update on Tanami Road progress, with emphasis on Aboriginal employment outcomes.
- Overview of the resource sector and mining activity across the Kimberley.
- Concern raised regarding fuel prices in the West Kimberley.

Darren Skuse; Senior Advisor to Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy; Minister for Indigenous Australians

- Discussion on East Kimberley Partnership Agreement, with focus on early years and a place-based response.
- Overview of KRG Community Safety Package.
- Darren Skuse advised his primary focuses on environmental matters.
- Minister has announced funding opportunities:
 - Work with Kimberley Land Council (KLC) to support Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs).
 - Approx. \$200k available through NIAA to build capacity and assist in decreasing approval delays.
 - **Action: Executive Officer to liaise with NBY regarding access/applicability.**
- Discussion on Clean Energy First Nations Strategy.
- Highlighted NIAA Local Investment Fund as a potential grant opportunity.
- Update on Tanami Road upgrade.
- Shire of Broome Shire President raised concerns regarding:

- Standard and maintenance of social housing.
- Links to rheumatic heart disease.
- Interest in a potential Ministerial trip to the Kimberley.

Senator Varun Ghosh; Senator for Western Australia; Chair of Environment and Communications Legislation Committee; Deputy Chair of Environment and Communications References Committee; Deputy Chair Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

- KRG position papers and general overview provided.
- Discussion on East Kimberley signing event, with focus on place-based initiatives and early years.

Dr Anne Webster MP; Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

- Tanami Road Project update provided.
- Discussion on First Point of Entry at Wyndham and Broome.
- Concerns raised regarding:
 - Royalties for Regions not being rolled out as legislated in WA.
 - Local Government rate exemptions and Community Housing Provider (CHP) rate risks linked to current housing grants.
- Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs):
 - Dr Anne noted the overall funding pool is sufficient, but concerns lie with how State Governments allocate the funds.
 - Federal Government is considering implications under section 96.
 - **Action: Executive Officer to provide Dr Anne with the Financial Assistance Grants full report. Complete.**
- General Purpose Grants: raised issue that roads currently do not have a minimum grant criteria.
- Further discussion on housing matters, including:
 - Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT).
 - KRG Housing Pipeline.
 - Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) and broader social housing needs.

Alice Gralton; Adviser, Office of the Hon Madeleine King MP; Minister for Resources; Minister for Northern Australia

- KRG position papers and general overview provided.
- Discussion on Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT).
- Discussion on Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) and broader Local Government sustainability issues.
- **Action: Executive Officer to provide Alice Gralton with the Financial Assistance Grants full report. Complete.**
- Tanami Road update noted.

Senator Dean Smith; Senator for Western Australia; Chair of Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills; Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme

- Discussion on KRG Community Safety Package.
- First Point of Entry opportunities at Kimberley ports.
- Northern Australia Committee inquiries noted:
 - Ports.
 - Airlines and cabotage review.
- **Senator Smith advised of a contact: Kelvin Ryan, Housing Australia.**

- Overview provided on:
 - KRG Housing Pipeline.
 - Sanctuary Village Project update.
 - Tanami Road business case.
- Discussion on Disaster Resilience.
- Local Government financial sustainability raised.
- Overview provided on Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).
- Senator Smith queried whether the Kimberley is receiving benefit from the WA GST windfall.
 - Executive Officer also raised Royalties for Regions.
 - Premier had noted reductions in health and aged care funding.
- Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT):
 - Senator Smith previously published an opinion piece.
- Senator Smith suggested a media and advocacy strategy:
 - Pitch to Basil Zempilas (GST transparency, FBT reform, FAGs).
 - Position the Kimberley within a broader “Regional Cities” framework to advocate to the Labor Government.
- Concerns raised on:
 - Quality of health care in the region.
 - Social housing maintenance issues.

Hon Clare O’Neil MP; Minister for Housing; Minister for Homelessness; Minister for Cities | Kareem El-ansary, Policy Adviser

- Minister indicated she can raise matters directly with the Federal Treasurer.
- Discussion on KRG Housing Pipeline.
- Concerns highlighted regarding maintenance of social housing.
- Minister outlined Federal Government initiative: 100,000 homes for first homebuyers over 8 years.
 - Grants to be administered through State Governments.
 - **Action:** Executive Officer to research this grant opportunity for all KRG projects e.g. McMahon Estate.
- Discussion on Housing Australia programs:
 - Current focus on social housing delivered via Community Housing Providers (CHPs).

Senator Susan McDonald; National Senator for Queensland; Deputy Leader of the Nationals in the Senate

- Discussion on housing issues, including:
 - Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) on mortgage interest.
 - Housing Australia concerns with on CHPs and associated rate exemptions.
 - KRG Housing Pipeline overview.
- Senator McDonald noted Angus Taylor (Shadow Treasurer) is supportive of FBT reform.
- Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK) building 12 modular staff houses – linked to a State election promise.
- Discussion on Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).
- **Action:** Senator McDonald requested KRG write to the ACCC to monitor airline charges on the Kimberley/NT route (Nexus/Air North).
- **Action:** Executive Officer to review the Timber Creek Native Title decision and its relevance to the Kimberley and the effect on the KRG members.
- Mention of Broome–Singapore (BME) flights.
- Update on Tanami Road project.

Senator the Hon Nita Green; Labor Senator from Queensland; Assistant Minister for Northern Australia; Assistant Minister for Tourism; Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs

- Discussion on KRG Community Safety Package.
- Overview of the KRG Housing Pipeline.
- Issues raised regarding Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) on housing and Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).
- Senator advised efforts are underway to elevate housing issues through the Northern Australia portfolio.
- Update on Tanami Road project.
- Discussion on tourism opportunities in the Kimberley.

Zackary Drury; Senior Advisor | Nick Green; Senior Advisor to the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP; Treasurer

- Discussion on Local Government sustainability and Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).
- Nick Green noted the need for LGs to present financials for grant funding, including depreciation schedules, and asked about limitations on revenue-raising.
- Update that the Treasurer is liaising with the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) regarding depreciation.
- **Action:** Executive Officer to provide Zackary Drury and Nick Green with the Financial Assistance Grants full report. **Complete.**
- Federal Government indicated a continued focus on Local Government sustainability.
- Discussion on relaxing FBT exemptions, including extending housing exemptions to mortgage holders (100% exemption).

Hon Kristy McBain MP; Minister for Emergency Management; Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

- Discussion on Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) and Local Government sustainability, with emphasis on reviewing how funds are distributed.
- Raised issue of General Purpose Grant minimum criteria: current 30% minimum requested to be adjusted by Federal Government to a range of 10–30% at each State's discretion.
 - Minister noted Queensland Grants Commission had successfully adjusted criteria; suggested review.
- Update that a Local Government expert is now in Treasury.
- Noted finalisation of a Local Government enquiry within this term of government.
- Discussion on Emergency Evacuation and Resilience funding (DRF Round 3); Minister expressed interest in funding hard infrastructure.

Risk

- **Reputational:** If there are no outcomes from the Kimberley Housing Roundtable
- **Financial:** If opportunity to capitalize on government housing investment is not realized

Attachment 13: Canberra Itinerary 1-2 September

Meetings Schedule – 1 & 2 September

Monday, 1 September

Parliament House Security: Opens at 9am. Ring Suite Number from Marble Foyer Photo ID required for Parliament House Security

Time	Attendee(s)	Position	Location / Contact
9:30am – 10:00am	Senator Glenn Sterle Labor WA	- Senator for WA - Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee - Deputy Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee	Suite S1.40 Fiona: (02) 6277 3615
10:30am – 11:30am <i>10 min drive from Parliament House</i>	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) - Brenan Moon - Dr Jill Charker - Joe Buffone	- CEO - Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Group - Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response Group	70 Northbourne Ave, Canberra ACT 2601 Please arrive 5 minutes early for visitor sign-in. Upon arrival in the lobby, please call Kylie Travers on 0409 688 431 to arrange an escort through the building. As per our Security Protocols, all visitors will need to sign in upon arrival and be escorted through the building.
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm Labor QLD	- Senator for Queensland - Assistant Minister for Regional Development; - Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; - Assistant Minister for Resources	Suite SG.31 Megan Kay: 0439 056 040 or (02) 6277 3103
1:30pm – 2:00pm <i>15-20 min walk from Parliament House</i>	CANBERRA HUB	- Open 9am – 5pm Monday – Wednesday - Provide name, company & time of arrival on the sign in sheet	Level 3, 26 Brisbane Avenue, Barton (02) 6108 3002 Receptionist will assist in locating a desk
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Darren Skuse	Senior Advisor to Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy; Minister for Indigenous Australians	Suite: TBA Preferred: (02) 6277 7780 Dareen Skuse: 0476 033 286
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Senator Varun Ghosh Labor WA	- Senator for WA - Chair of Environment and Communications Legislation Committee - Deputy Chair of Environment and Communications References Committee - Deputy Chair of Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)	Suite S1.51 Matt Kavanagh: 0497 931 182 or (02) 6277 3356

Kimberley Regional Group: Minutes 25 September 2025



Tuesday, 2 September

Time	Attendee(s)	Position	Location / Contact
8:30am – 8:50am	Dr Anne Webster MP The Nationals Vic	Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories	Suite RG.90 Arrive 10 min early. (02) 6277 4027
9:15am – 10:00am	Alice Gralton	Adviser, Office of the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources; Minister for Northern Australia	Queens Terrace Café Alice Gralton: 0499 825 487
10:30am – 11:00am	Senator Dean Smith Liberal WA	- Chair of Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills - Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade - Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme	Suite: TBA Dean Smith: 0402 992 227 (02) 6277 3442
12:10pm – 12:40pm	Hon Clare O'Neil MP Labor	- Minister for Housing - Minister for Homelessness - Minister for Cities	Suite M127 Marie: 0417 552 287
1:00pm – 1:20pm	Senator Susan McDonald Liberal QLD	- National Senator for Queensland - Deputy Leader of the Nationals in the Senate	Suite SG.37 Arrive 15 min prior. (02) 6277 3635
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Senator the Hon Nita Green Labor QLD	- Labor Senator from Queensland - Assistant Minister for Northern Australia; - Assistant Minister for Tourism; - Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs	Suite S1.104 (02) 6277 3580
4:00pm – 4:30pm	- Zackary Drury - Nick Green	Senior Advisors to the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP; Treasurer	Suite: MG47 (02) 6277 7340
5:15pm – 5:35pm	Hon Kirsty McBain MP Labor NSW	- Minister for Emergency Management; - Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories	Suite M1.23 Dorothee Steinbach: 0438 719 772 or (02) 6277 7060
7:30pm – Late DINNER	Attendees: Melissa Price MP, Senator Dean Smith, Senator Matt O'Sullivan Location: Molto Italian, Element Building, Unit 155/43 Eastlake Parade, Kingston Time Booked: 7:30pm Note: Matt O'Sullivan will join late (from 8:00 pm) due to Senate duties		

Attachment 14: Canberra LinkedIn Post

**Kimberley Regional Group of Local Governments**

728 followers

4d • Edited • 

Back from Canberra — and Backing the Kimberley

We have just returned from a productive and energising visit to Canberra with the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG), representing the four Kimberley Local Governments.

We had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of ministers, shadow ministers, senior advisors, and departmental officials to advocate for the needs and aspirations of our communities in the Kimberley. We were warmly received, and we're encouraged by the level of interest and engagement in the issues we face and the opportunities ahead.

Our discussions focused on several key priorities that are critical to the Kimberley's social and economic future, including:

-  Increasing housing supply and affordability
-  Reforming Financial Assistance Grants to reflect regional realities
-  Unlocking land for development and investment
-  FBT exemptions to support home ownership in northern Australia
-  Community safety and crime prevention
-  Emergency and disaster preparedness and response
-  Transport and logistics infrastructure — particularly roads, ports, and aviation
-  The impact of rate exemptions on local government sustainability
-  Progress on the Tanami Road and the significant economic opportunities it unlocks

This trip reinforced the value of strong regional collaboration through KRG — allowing us to present a united voice on shared challenges and priorities, and to engage with decision-makers at the highest levels.

We return to the Kimberley with renewed momentum and commitment to progress these priorities in partnership with our communities, governments, and stakeholders. [Stephen Dawson](#) [Kristy McBain MP](#) [Clare O'Neil](#) [Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley](#) [Shire of Derby/West Kimberley](#) [Shire of Broome](#) [Shire of Halls Creek](#) [Paul Rosair](#) [Michelle Mackenzie](#) [Jane Lewis](#) [Vernon Lawrence](#) [David Menzel](#) [Tamara Clarkson MBA](#) [Jeff Gooding](#) [Sam Mastrolembro](#) [chris mitchell](#) [Kimberley Development Commission](#) [Melissa Price](#) [Dean Smith](#)

[#KimberleyStrong](#) [#RegionalDevelopment](#) [#LocalGovernment](#)

[#NorthernAustralia](#) [#Transport](#) [#Ports](#) [#Aviation](#) [#DisasterPreparedness](#)

[#CommunitySafety](#) [#Housing](#) [#Infrastructure](#) [#Advocacy](#) [#CanberraMeetings](#)



Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		TBC	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG discussed the value of the meetings in Canberra and agreed a further visit should be scheduled for 2026. The Executive Officer to review and refine the Kimberley Housing Pipeline to create a more robust and visual document in preparation for the budget cycle and the 2026 Canberra visit. The Executive Officer to progress actions arising from the Canberra meetings.		The Secretariat and Executive Officer to explore possible dates and report back to the members. The Executive Officer to review and refine the Kimberley Housing Pipeline to create a more robust and visual document in preparation for the budget cycle and 2026 Canberra visit. Meeting with Darren Skuse; Senior Advisor to Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy: The Executive Officer to liaise with NBY regarding access/applicability on funding opportunities. Meeting with Hon Clare O'Neil MP: The Executive Officer to research federal housing grant opportunities for all KRG projects e.g. McMahon Estate. Meeting with Senator Susan McDonald: The Executive Officer to write to the ACCC to monitor airline charges on the Kimberley/NT route (Nexus/Air North). The Executive Officer to review the Timber Creek Native Title decision and its relevance to the Kimberley and the effect on the KRG members.	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Officer / Secretariat
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

11. KRG Planning Workshop – November 2025

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To note the progress of the November 2025 workshop to develop a new KRG Business Plan

In summary

- The KRG has a business planning priorities workshop in Broome on the 14th November 2025
- The purpose of the workshop is to review the KRG's strategy, the status of agreed actions and to set priorities for the KRG's work over the next five years.
- The KRG resolved to develop a framework and consolidate the KRG strategic documents. This workshop is a component of this piece of work.

Background

The actions outlined in the Kimberley Regional Group Business Plan 2021-2025 were reviewed at a workshop held at the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley on the 21st November 2022. This workshop prioritised actions from the Business Plan 2026-2031 for the Secretariat to progress. The status of these actions outlined have reported at each KRG meeting in the Prioritised Action List.

A workshop was held in October 2024 at the City of Vincent to review and update the priority action list. At this workshop members discussed on the merits of having a ten year community plan, a 5 year business plan, a communications and media plan and stakeholder engagement strategy, and how contemporary they are. Members expressed an interest in understanding progress of the complete Business Plan 2026-2031. It was agreed to rationalise and update the documents with Executive Team to develop a framework and consolidate the KRG Strategic Documents

The secretariat is recommending that the KRG have one document five-year document 2026-2031 that contains the following -

- Overview of the KRG
- Vision
- Mission
- Key strategic pillars
- Key strategies to deliver on each of the pillars
- A separate rolling 12 month action plan outlining the specific actions to deliver the strategies

Details

The workshop program is in development. It is likely that the workshop will include

Part A – Strategy Review

- Review of the Vision
- Review of the Mission
- Review of the key strategic pillars

Part B – Project and Actions Review

- What we have done last 5 years (Business plan status update)

Part C – Priority setting under each strategic pillar

- Agreed priority projects –
 - current / in abeyance / new projects
- A short online survey to capture other projects / information

For reference, a number of projects have been captured through CEO and KRG meetings for consideration at the workshop. These include -

- Regional Youth Strategy
- Regional Resource Sharing
- Regional Economic Development Strategy
- 2026/27 State Budget Submission
- Bushfire management on Aboriginal communities
- Regional Waste Management Opportunities
- Water Access

It would be useful prior to the workshop if KRG members could reflect on what strategies, projects and actions that it would like the KRG to undertake to support a regional local government agenda.

Risk

Reputational: If work does not deliver value for members and for the region

Financial: If investment is not optimised into priority pieces of work

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor	Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted the progress of the November planning workshop.		CEOs to provide additional items for inclusion in the planning workshop to the Executive Team by 16 October. The Executive Officer to include an item on the possibility of holding a Government Forum in Canberra with key ministers, departments and members. The Executive Officer to include an item on the possibility of joint meetings with the Kimberley and Pilbara Shires' CEOs.	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Officer / CEOs
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	16 October 2025
Carried:	4/0		

12. KRG CEO Meeting August 2025

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 15 Minutes of the August 2025 CEO Meeting
Attachment 16 CEO Meeting Action List

Purpose

To provide KRG members the notes of the KRG August CEO meeting`

In summary

- KRG CEOs met on the 15th of August 2025
- A number of operational issues that impact all Shires were raised
- CEOs raised a number of strategic issues, which will be added to the agenda for the November 2025 KRG priority planning session.
- Operational issues will be progressed by the CEOs

Background

- As above

Details

The key issues discussed by the CEO were as follows -

- Resource sharing opportunities
- Development of a Kimberley Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention advocacy
- Youth Strategy
- Bushfire management on Aboriginal communities
- Regional Waste Management
- Kimberley Housing
- Water Access
- Legislative changes to rating of miscellaneous licenses on Crown Land
- Animal management and RSPCA partnerships

Risk

Financial – if opportunities to develop operational economies of scale aren't understood or realised.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted the outcome and actions of the KRG CEO Meeting August 2025		The Secretariat and Members to progress actions arising from the KRG CEO meeting.	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Secretariat / Members
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 15: Minutes of the August 2025 CEO Meeting

CEO Meeting Notes



Date: Friday 15th August 2025

10.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Via Zoom

1. Meeting open

2. Attendance and apologies

2.1 Attendance

- Vernon Lawrence, CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
- Sue Leonard, CEO, Shire of Halls Creek
- Wayne Neate, A/CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Paul Rosair, Executive Officer, KRG
- Michelle Mackenzie, Executive Support, KRG

2.2 Apologies

- Tamara Clarkson, CEO Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Sam Matrolembo, CEO Shire of Broome
- James Watt, A/CEO Shire of Broome

3. Review of Actions

4. Resource Sharing

Discussion Points

- Agreement on the value of having key professional people that are difficult to recruit shared across the Shires
- Positions discussed included building surveyors, planning staff, HR
- Different models of delivery might work across a range of services
- Potential opportunity for joint procurement and to let a one as the Kimberley zone and negotiate rates with benefits of economies of scale
- Enterprise services, payroll - Benefits of aligned enterprise services across region
 - Ie SoHC progressing Office 365 / SharePoint (Consultant Daniel Seville)
- Benchmarking template – should capture status quo re enterprise systems
- Would like more details about Shire of Irwin project
- Discussion on need for AI information / training – how it can assist productivity

Actions

Secretariat to:

1. **Seek information from Shires on difficult to recruit roles**
2. **Collate and determine areas of joint need; Determine options and best methods of delivery; and draft an EOI**
3. **Talk to SoHC re their enterprise solution**
4. **Obtain Shire of Irwin project information**
5. **Source information on AI training**

5. Regional Economic Development Strategy

Discussion points

- Agreement on the value of a cohesive regional economic development strategy to underpin advocacy for critical transformative infrastructure investment
- A lot of material available – i.e., individual Council ED Strategies
- Discussion on Royalties for Regional program and investment – timing good for this discussion if framed correctly

Actions

Secretariat to:

- 1. Develop a Scope of Works for a Regional Economic Development Strategy**
- 2. Progress discussion paper on Royalties for Regions opportunities**

6. Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Discussion points

- Need to progress advocacy around the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package - ie Police requesting SWEK increase investment in CCTV as no police funding
- Need to reframe on the benefits / positive – shift perception around community safety and crime prevention issues
- Positive campaigns – i.e., SoHC focusing on Why do you live here? SWEK produced 4/5 videos with staff on the positive experiences of living in Kimberley for a previous recruitment drive – cost around \$10-\$15K

Actions

Secretariat to

- 1. Capture current advocacy on community safety and crime prevention package and develop an advocacy strategy**
- 2. Include this investment in the KRG bid in advance of the 2026/27 State Budget**

7. Youth Strategy

Discussion points

1. Core state responsibility
2. A Shift since it was written – focus on ACCOs,

Action - Secretariat to add to November planning meeting

8. Bushfire Management - Aboriginal Communities

Discussion points

- Shires are responsibility under MOU with DFES for volunteers
- Concern DFES may not have paperwork up to date re inductions, training etc. – potential liability for local government

- SWEK seeking to amend the MOU with DFES and have written to the Commissioner
- Discussion on roles and responsibilities of bushfire management on Aboriginal communities,
- No funding for brigades to mitigate risk – i.e., preventive actions and for community education

Actions

1. **SWEK to share their letter to the Commission outlining current issues**
2. **Secretariat to add to November planning meeting**

9. Regional Waste Management Opportunities

- Discussion deferred

Action - Secretariat to add to November planning meeting

10. Kimberley Housing Pipeline and Minister Carey Meeting Update

- Secretariat met with Minister Carey - Minister advised if blockages with the Department progress projects to his office
- KDC advised
 - Residential Housing and Land Snapshot, and KRG request for demand data, will be delayed
 - They are advocating with DevelopmentWA for land releases
 - They have met with Keystart and DevelopmentWA to advocate for a joint project in Halls Creek
 - They have met with DevelopmentWA and Water Corporation to advocate for Sewer Pump Station for Lakeside Estate in Kununurra
 - Have put forward projects eligible for HEIF support for water corporation headworks

Actions

1. **Secretariat to seek population projections from members**
2. **Members to work with secretariat to schedule project pipeline**

11. Other business

11.1 Water access

Action – Secretariat to add to November planning meeting

11.2 Legislative changes to rating of miscellaneous licenses on Crown Land

- WALGA advised the best way to progress this issue is through local members
- KRG to tie issue in with the broader impact of rate exemptions on local governments

Action – Secretariat to write to Divina D’Anna MLA outlining Kimberley Council’s concerns

11.3 Developing Northern Australia Conference Debrief

- Discussion on 2 speed development – Queensland and the NT / WA
- Need to address NT / WA issues urgently
- Agreement that the conference was of value, and the collective discount rate positive

Action – KRG to schedule attendance at DNAC 2026 Alice Springs with KRG meeting in Halls Creek, then travel to DNAC 2026 down the Tanami Road.

11.4 RSPCA WA

- Ben Cave, RSPCA WA CEO, approached the Secretariat advising that they are keen to share their service model for the Kimberly (and regions generally), and to seek engagement on how they can best work with each Shire and local police to achieve the right outcomes for animal welfare.
- SWEK advised the value of the CEO visiting SWEK to discuss issues

Action – Secretariat to invite RSPCA WA CEO to a KRG CEO meeting

11.5 KRG Logo and link on KRG Member websites

- Thanks to Halls Creek for including the KRG logo on their website

Action – Members to put the KRG logo on their websites with a link to KRG website

11.6 rPPP funding

- Congratulations to Derby for obtaining rPPP in the August 2025 round for their Derby Recreation Precinct Masterplan - Funding will support the delivery of plans for an integrated precinct supporting youth programs, community activities, recreation, and art and cultural activities
- SWEK advised on relationship with MRWA for the rPPP funds is a good model and can share this

Meeting closed – 12.26

Attachment 16: CEO Meeting Action List

CEO Meetings – Action List as at Sept 2025

No	Meeting raised	Item	Status
1	30/07/24	Provide a housing pipeline list to Housing Australia	Complete
2	30/07/24	Shires to advised of current IT /finance / enterprise platforms used and any planned initiatives	Pending
3	30/07/24	Financial Assistance Grants Review – Shires to advise if they would like financial model to review	Complete
4	30/07/24	Follow up with Cocos and Christmas Island regarding their attendance	Complete
5	30/07/24	Scope of Housing Tax Reform FBT Options – engage tax expert	Complete
6	3/07/25	Shared services PowerPoint to be circulated EO to arrange for presentation / demonstration of Shire of Irwin Local Government Shared services product	Pending
7	3/07/25	SDWK CEO to inform EMRC that KRG may be interested in their office space	Pending
8	3/07/25	SWEK CEO to inspect the EMRC office	Pending
9	3/07/2025	CEOs to revisit the KRC Youth Strategy (Strategy circulated with the minutes)	Pending
10	3/07/2025	If appropriate, EO to bring together relevant Shire staff to understand common youth issues to inform advocacy.	Pending
11.	15/08/25	Secretariat to: 1. Seek information from Shires on difficult to recruit roles 2. Collate and determine areas of joint need; Determine options and best methods of delivery; and draft an EOI 3. Talk to SoHC re their enterprise solution 4. Obtain Shire of Irwin project information 5. Source information on AI training	Underway

12	15/08/25	Secretariat to: 1. Develop a Scope of Works for a Regional Economic Development Strategy 2. Progress discussion paper on Royalties for Regions opportunities	Underway
13	15/08/25	Secretariat to 1. Capture current advocacy on community safety and crime prevention package and develop an advocacy strategy 2. Include this investment in the KRG bid in advance of the 2026/27 State Budget	Underway
14	15/08/25	Secretariat to add Youth Strategy to the November 2025 planning meeting	Underway
15	15/08/25	Bushfire management on Aboriginal communities 1. SWEK to share their letter to the Commission outlining current issues 2. Secretariat to add to November 2025 planning meeting	Underway
16	15/08/2025	Secretariat to add Regional Waste Management Opportunities to the November 2025 Planning Meeting	Underway
17	15/08/25	Housing Pipeline - 1. Secretariat to seek population projections from members 2. Members to work with secretariat to schedule project pipeline	Underway
18	15/08/25	Secretariat to add water access to the November 2025 planning meeting	Underway
19	15/08/25	Legislative changes to rating of miscellaneous licenses on Crown Land Secretariat to write to Divina D'Anna MLA outlining Kimberley Council's concerns	Complete
20	15/08/25	KRG to schedule attendance at DNAC 2026 Alice Springs with KRG meeting in Halls Creek, then travel to DNAC 2026 down the Tanami Road	Underway
21	15/08/25	Secretariat to invite RSPCA WA CEO to a KRG CEO meeting	Pending
22	15/08/25	Members to put the KRG logo on their websites with a link to KRG website	Pending

13. Kimberley Housing Pipeline

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide an update on the Kimberley Housing Pipeline Project.

In summary

provide an update on the Kimberley Housing Pipeline Project.

In summary

- The Kimberley Housing Pipeline, a co-ordinated package of new housing projects across the Kimberley, is an outcome of the Housing Roundtable held in Broome on the 29th July 2024.
- Housing Australia requested an indicative list of shovel ready Kimberley projects which was provided to them in September 2024.
- The project pipeline continues to be updated as projects are funded.
- Since the Housing Roundtable, there have been a number of changes of senior staff at Housing Australia, and the operational commitment to the pipeline is difficult to gauge.
- The KRG met with the Federal Minister for Housing in September 2025. The Minister indicated that priorities include -
 - A new Home Buyer initiative - 100,000 homes for first homebuyers over 8 years, with grants to be administered by the State and Territory governments.
 - Increasing social Housing for Housing Australia through the community housing sector.
- The pipeline will be updated based on these opportunities
- Additional work required to finalise this work includes housing demand data for each Shire, a project schedule and cashflow, project governance and risk management. Also, an advocacy strategy.

Background

- As above

Details

The Federal government is expanding the Home Guarantee Scheme from October 2025 along with investment in a new 100,000 Home Buyer Initiative.

Home Guarantee Scheme - From 1 October 2025, the federal government is expanding the Home Guarantee Scheme to include unlimited places, no income caps, and higher property price limits, allowing first home buyers to purchase a home with just a 5% deposit. The Property Price Cap effective 1 October 2025 for a property in Regional WA is \$600K¹.

¹ <https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/media/unlimited-places-higher-property-price-caps-first-home-buyers-1-october-2025>

100,000 Home Buyer Initiative - from 1 July 2025 for program commencement, which includes the following:

- Shared housing investment: \$10 billion, including \$2 billion in grants and \$8 billion in zero-interest loans or equity investments.
- State and territory co-investment: States and territories must match the \$2 billion federal grant contribution.
- Target: To build up to 100,000 new homes for sale only to first homebuyers.
- Construction timeline: Construction on the first projects is expected to start in 2026-27².

Western Australia generally gets around 10-11% of Federal funding which would equate to 11,000 homes. The Kimberley has 1.34% of the WA population. This would equate to around 134 homes across the Kimberley.

Community Housing

State and Federal Housing policy and investment is supporting the growth of social and affordable housing in partnership with the community housing sector. Federal investment is progressed through initiatives like the Social Housing Accelerator and the Housing Australia Future Fund, which provide funding and concessional loans to increase the stock of social and affordable housing nationwide. State policies support these goals by funding community housing projects, and providing grants and developing partnerships with community housing providers for new social and affordable housing including new build-to-rent initiatives.

There are two large community housing providers with a footprint in the Kimberley – Foundation Housing and Aboriginal Community Housing Limited. The benefits Community Housing have been identified as following;

- Expertise as community housing providers bring specific skills, knowledge and experience in property and tenancy management.
- Expertise in new housing developments, including brokering partnerships between government, and the private sector to drive new supply.
- Development of mixed tenure developments – i.e. social, affordable and homes for purchase, enabling cross subsidisation across different housing tenures.
- Partnerships with non-government agencies for targeted tenancy support services.
- Professional standards - Community housing providers are registered under the WA Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).
- From a State government perspective, tenant's access to Commonwealth Rent Assistance, which tenants in public housing are not eligible to receive.

²<https://www.pbo.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-05/PBO-ECR-2025-1344-Delivering%20100%2C000%20homes%20and%205%20percent%20deposits%20for%20all%20first%20home%20buyers.pdf>

A key issue for local governments is that community housing providers who are charities, receive rate exemptions, although some providers have negotiated MOUs with local governments to address this.

Risk

Reputational: That the KRG is not engaged in the reform agenda to unlock the economic potential of land in the Kimberley.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Approximately \$500 to design and print the position paper.	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted progress of the Kimberley Housing Pipeline Project.		The Executive Officer to provide a completion date of the project to members to align with a submission to the State The Executive Officer to note Sanctuary Road, Broome, as a priority regional housing project. The Executive Officer to organise a meeting with the Four Shire Presidents and Leon McIvor (Director General, Department of Housing and Works WA) to discuss the Housing Pipeline	
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

14. Government Forum and EA Development and Networking Workshop

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To analyse some metrics of the Government forum and EA development and networking workshop and gather member feedback on both events.

In summary

- The KRG and RCAWA co-hosted the 2025 Government Forum, themed “*Growing the Regions – the role of Local Government*”, with speakers from Federal and State Government, WALGA, and the KRG. Analysis of the forum metrics indicate that:
 - Ministerial representation was supported by senior advisors, providing policy-level engagement.
 - Departmental representation was strong, with either DG or senior executive presence from most agencies.
 - Organisational CEO attendance was lower than invitations issued but balanced by other high-level executive attendees.
- The EA workshop was attended by 14 participants (2 late apologies from Shire of Broome and Shire of Halls Creek). Feedback was very positive, and the group continue to communicate via TEAMS Chat.

Background

The KRG has partnered with the Regional Capitals Alliance of WA (RCAWA) over the past two years to deliver a Government Forum, attracting high-level participation from Federal, State, and Local Government, including Ministers, Director Generals, Executive Directors, and agency representatives. Following the 2024 Forum, it was agreed to continue the event in 2025 with a revised structure: reducing the number of speakers to allow more depth of discussion and moving the networking component to follow the formal presentations—enabling more time for engagement and questions.

The EA workshop, held at WALGA on the same day as the forum was agreed to earlier in the year. It was designed to offer information sessions and networking opportunities on the day and for the future.

Details

Government Forum:

Invitations for the forum were targeted at Ministers, Directors General, CEOs, and Chairs of organisations to ensure a high-level audience and networking opportunities. The table below outlines invitees, attendance, and relevant observations, excluding RCAWA and KRG members, Executive team, and event helpers.

Invitees	Attendees	Comments
Ministers: 12	2 Ministers, 4 Senior Policy Advisors	1 late apology, 1 no response
Parliamentary Secretaries: 1	0	Accepted, but late apology
Auditor General: 1	0	No response
Directors General: 10	4 DGs, 7 Deputy or Executive Directors	Most Departments had representation
CEOs: 19	6 CEOs, 3 Senior Executives	
President/Chair: 4	4	
Regional Manager: 3	2	

Key takeaways:

- Ministerial representation was supported by senior advisors, providing policy-level engagement.
- Departmental representation was strong, with either DG or senior executive presence from most agencies.
- Organisational CEO attendance was lower than invitations issued but balanced by other high-level executive attendees.
- Email invitations were sent 8 weeks before the event, with follow-up emails sent 4 weeks later for non-repliers. In some cases, the Executive Officer rang non-responders directly and discovered that the new RCAWA email address had caused some invitations to be diverted to spam email. Once acceptance had been established via email or phone call, a calendar invite was sent which allowed for secondary confirmation.

Financial analysis: Venue Hire: \$0, catering for networking event: \$1543.78 (KRG paid pro rata portion of this total).

Follow up: letters of thanks were sent accordingly, Linked In Post issued

Executive Assistant development and networking workshop

Invitees	Attendees	Comments
EAs from the RCAWA and KRG – initially the CEO and Mayor/President EAs; but extended to Director's EAs at the request of some Councils	14 EAs	2 late apologies

A participant survey was conducted to gauge the usefulness/success of the workshop:

- Overall workshop experience was reported very positively, with many participants enjoying learning from others about their systems and processes and about their resolutions to many common challenges. Also learning that they have a broad spectrum of duties and differing responsibilities. All enjoyed the chance to network.
- Everyone took away some key insight that will help them with their work
- 33% rated the workshop as **extremely valuable**, 67% rated it as **very valuable**
- Of the sessions within the workshop, the ones rated most useful by participants were:
 - the EA Iceberg Session (in which participants highlighted their achievements and challenges and subsequently shared resolutions and suggestions for challenges)
 - Executive communication and decoding executive speak
 - Prioritisation and email management
 - AI and other technology
- All participants indicated that would like to continue connecting with each other – via a TEAMS chat, quarterly virtual catchups and an annual in-person workshop
- 100% reported that they feel better equipped or more inspired to support their Executive as a result of the workshop

Financial analysis: Total cost for catering, external consultant and Rejoov session: \$2,006.84 (KRG paid pro rata of this total)

Follow-up: a TEAMS chat group was established and has been used by the EAs to share knowledge and ask questions of each other. A TEAMS meeting is being organised for early October – this will be structured and will include items put forward by the EAs for discussion.

Risk

Reputational: Ability to hold a forum/workshop with meaningful outcomes, attended by high profile, key stakeholders

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		KRG portion \$1,173	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
For noting		The Executive Officer to explore the possibility of holding a Government Forum in Canberra with key ministers, departments and members. on the November Planning Workshop agenda.	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

15. Around the Grounds

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

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

In summary

- Since the inception of this agenda item in February 2023, two events were deemed major enough to steer discussion: the Kimberley floods and the Canberra visit.
- Local Government elections 2025 – overview from each Shire
- Shires to introduce a topic/s of their choice that they deem relevant for the group. It is the intention that each Shire can hold the floor for up to 5 minutes, after which the item can either be followed up out of session or raised as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Potential Topics

- Discussion on upcoming local government elections

Risk

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

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

16. Kimberley Regional Group Priority Action List

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 17: 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.
- This list will be updated after the November 2025 planning workshop

Background

- As above

Details

- As per the attached action list

Risk

Operational: Without agreement on the priority work opportunities may be missed.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	Additional funding to progress agreed after a scope of works is presented for endorsement
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted the priority action list progress.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 17: KRG Prioritised Action List Status September 2025

Note: These actions will be reviewed in November

Legend

Ongoing		Complete	On track	Pending	Behind
Type of Activity	Actions		Within contract scope	Status Update	
Performance	Secretariat to source information on AI training		Yes	Information being sourced	
Advocate Facilitate	Develop a Scope of Works for a Regional Economic Development Strategy		Yes	Pending	
Advocate Facilitate	Progress a Discussion Paper on Royalties for Regions Opportunities		Yes	Pending	
Facilitate and partner	Develop a collective Kimberley Housing Investment Strategy		No	- Housing Advocacy Strategy endorsed November 2023 - Discussion with Housing Australia to develop of a 5-year Kimberley Housing Pipeline - Discussion with the WA Treasury Housing Supply Unit who support the pipeline approach - Pipeline projects identified by each Shire. - Submission in development which incorporates information requested by government including population projections, demand data, the pipeline and investment schedule, project governance and risk. - Scope of Works written for housing demand data for KDC review of the Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023. Advice that this review may not be progressing.	
Advocate	Capture current advocacy for community safety and crime prevention package				

Advocate	Develop 2026/27 bid in advance of the WA Government State Budget (include community safety and crime prevention)		Pending
Advocate	KRG members to put a link to the KRG Website from their websites		Pending
Advocate	Housing Maintenance Advocacy Strategy	Yes	- Letter written to Minister Dawson outlining key issues - Strategy to be developed for KRG endorsement
Advocate	- Review KRG land policy and strategy - 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.	Yes	Paper in July 2025 meeting for endorsement
Performance	Improving performance by learning from others (Benchmarking Project)	No	- Benchmarking project endorsed November 2023 meeting. - Templates provided to Councils for input and awaiting a response - This project was paused at the February 2025 meeting to incorporate 2024/25 Shire data.
Performance	Explore Shared Services Opportunities - CEOs to identify difficult to recruit roles - Executive to collate and determine areas of joint need, the best options and methods of delivery and to draft and EOI	No	CEOs identifying difficult to recruit roles
Advocate	- Expansion of mental health services. - Expansion of family and domestic violence services. - Expansion of aged care services. - Health facilities that are fit for purpose in Aboriginal communities.	Yes	An opportunity to lead joint advocacy with NGO sector
Advocate	Advocate for whole of family approach and wrap around services to be located in the Kimberley.	Yes	- Rolled into election strategy. - Benchmarking exercise to assist with this.
Advocate	Develop advocacy strategies to encourage economic diversification including mining; tourism; agriculture; defence; creative Industries; small business; Indigenous business growth	Yes	Ongoing advocacy and engagement
Advocate	Advocate for MOG initiatives around better place based regional service delivery to be progressed.	Yes	- Ongoing advocacy and engagement. - MOG reform in WA underway post 2025 Election.
Advocate	Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability.	Yes	- Submission Framework on the April 2024 agenda for discussion and input. - Submission lodged 30th May 2024 - Attended public hearing August 2024.
Advocate Facilitate	Gather government election priorities	Yes	Reviewed government commitments

Advocate Facilitate	Create Investment Prospectus 2023		Complete
Advocate Facilitate	Create Investment Prospectus 2024	No	Complete
Advocate	Develop pre-election summary document	No	Complete
Advocate Facilitate	Develop communication and advocacy plan	Yes	Key messages / key stakeholders
Advocate	Develop White Paper with clear positions	Yes	- Complete – Instead of White Paper Position Papers developed on the following issues - - Prosperous and Diverse Economy - Housing - Management of Alcohol and Other Drugs - Juvenile Justice - Community Safety and Crime Prevention - Provision of Government Services - Emergency Management - Financial Assistance Grants - Fringe Benefits Tax Housing - Rates Exemptions
Advocate	- Increase support for mitigation measures, - infrastructure replacement to be more resilient. - Removal of the distinction between ordinary and additional costs in NDR payments. - Streamlined contracting and procurement processes, surety to payments, and immediate access to NDR funds.	Yes	- Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Submission endorsed and submitted. - Senate Inquiry submission submitted. - EM Policy Paper submitted. - These points included in submissions and EM Policy Paper.
Facilitate and Partner	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.	Yes	- NHFIC, now Housing Australia, attended November 2023 meeting. - Are engaged through Housing Advocacy Strategy and the Kimberley Housing Pipeline.

Advocate	Develop a stakeholder engagement and communications plan, and advocacy strategy, to drive the actions identified in the Housing Policy Position, i.e.: • State and federal social and affordable housing investment programs target the Kimberley • Community housing partnerships. • The DPLH support Shires to review housing needs in each town. • Changes to Government Regional Officer Housing and Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme policies • Government incentives for new supply • Changes to finance lending practices for home purchase	Yes	• Endorsed November 2023 meeting
Advocate	• Submission to Aviation Green Paper	Yes	• Submission endorsed at November 2023 meeting and submitted
Performance	• Review KRG Governance Documents	Yes	• Governance documents endorsed at November 2023 meeting.
Advocate	• Submission to National Housing and Homelessness Plan	Yes	• Submission lodged based on Housing Policy Position
Advocate	• First Port of Entry Status	Yes	• Letters sent to State and Federal Government Ministers – continued to be raised in meetings with government. • Expanded FPOE status progressed for Broome • Wyndham First Port of Entry Status Federally approved 17 January 2025 • Funding allocated in the 2025 WA Budget
Advocate	• Defence and Border Security		• Letters to Ministers • Support for North West Defence Alliance
Advocate	• Alcohol Management – Letters and submissions on the Banned Drinkers Register	Yes	• Submissions made on proposed changes to the Banned Drinkers Register
Advocate	• Potential summit with Regional Australia Institute, 14-15 August, Canberra	Yes	• NAJA negotiated reduced conference package and opportunities • KRG sponsor of National Summit recognised through branding and dedicated session.
Facilitate and Partner	• Host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable	No	• Held in Broome July 2024.
Advocate	• Launch Pre-election document	Yes	• Formal launch at August 2024 Kimberley Economic Forum.

Advocate	Tanami Activation Strategy	No	- Application lodged by KDC for precinct funding under rPPP was not successful - Activation strategy is included in the Investment Prospectus and Election Strategy - Correspondence to the KDC requesting whole of government governance arrangements to facilitate project development
Advocate	Financial Assistance Grants	No	- Research report endorsed Feb 2025 - Report provided to key stakeholders - Submission lodged with the WA Grants Commission 21 May 2025
Partner	Develop a joint project to quantify shire expenditure on vandalism/property crime.	No	Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package complete
Monitor and Advocate	Research on the Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) methodology with recommendations for changes to the funding allocation.	No	- Scope of works endorsed at November 2023 meeting. - Review completed - Review circulated to key stakeholders - Submission made to WA Grant Commission May 2025
Advocate	Develop a stakeholder engagement, communications and advocacy strategy in line with the Policy Papers	Yes	Complete
Advocate	Undertake Pre-election Advocacy	Yes (unless Canberra)	Complete

17. Executive Officer Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Officer

Attachment 18: EO Report August 2025

Purpose

To update the KRG on the Executive Officer services provided for the period June 2025 inclusive.

Background

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

Details

As in included attachment.

Risk

Nil

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The Executive Officers Report was received and endorsed		Executive Officer to work with the Secretariat to develop a 12-month action plan following the November workshop, ensuring alignment with agreed priority actions.	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Officer / Secretariat
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 18: EO Report August 2025

Project Work / Activity

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

Project / Activity	Status	Item
Administrative Matters and Meetings	Ongoing	-
Website and social media	LinkedIn posts continuing	-
Strategic Planning	Implementation of the KRG Prioritised Action List. Workshop to review plan scheduled for November 2025.	16
Advocacy Strategy Management of Social Housing	Paused	-
Kimberley Housing Pipeline	In Progress	13
General Stakeholder Engagement	Ongoing – see Stakeholder list	17
KRG September 2025 Canberra Meetings	Complete	10
Developing Northern Australia Conference	Complete	9
KRG CEO Meeting August 2025	Complete	12
Strategic Planning Workshop	In Progress - Workshop scheduled for November 2025.	11

Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Purpose
KRG members	Developing Northern Australia Conference 22-24 July 2025 Cairns, KRG Canberra visit, Minister Meetings
KRG Secretariat	Agenda items, advocacy discussions, finance administrative matters
Executive Team	Workshop to review the priority action list, organise meetings in Canberra, Developing Northern Australia Conference logistics
Michael Campbell; Housing Australia	Meeting request
Ben Cave; Chief Executive Officer; RSPCA WA	Information about the RSPCA WA's Kimberley wide opportunity
Harry Saunders; Electorate Officer; Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley	Assistance with securing meetings in Canberra

Stakeholders	Purpose
Carolyn Correll; Diary Manager; Hon Melissa Price MP	Dinner invitation with members in Canberra
Jennyfer Schulz; Executive Assistant / Office Manager; Senator Dean Smith	Dinner invitation with members in Canberra
Senator Matt O'Sullivan; Deputy Chair of Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit; Deputy Chair of Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation	Dinner invitation with members in Canberra
- Patrick Gorman MP - Hon Dr Jim Chalmers - Senator Hon Don Farrell - Hon Catherine King MP - Hon Julie Collins MP - Hon Clare O'Neil MP - Hon Madeleine King MP - Senator Hon Murray Watt - Senator Hon Malarndirri McCarthy - Hon Kristy McBain MP - Senator Hon Anthony Chisholm - Hon Josh Wilson MP - Senator Hon Nita Green - Hon David Littleproud MP - Senator Susan McDonald - Senator Jacinta Nampiljinpa Price - Senator Dean Smith - Kate Chaney MP - Brendan Moon; CEO; NEMA - Dr Jill Charker; Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Group; NEMA - Joe Buffone; Deputy Coordinator-General, Emergency Management and Response Group; NEMA - Melissa Price MP - Hon Dr Anne Aly MP - Hon Anika Wells MP - Senator Hon Bridget McKenzie - Dr Anne Webster MP - Senator Glenn Sterle - Senator Ellie Whiteaker - Senator Varun Ghosh - Senator Matt O'Sullivan	Meeting Request with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra
Kareem El-ansary; Advisory Min Clare O'Neil, Housing, homelessness, Cities	Meeting with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra
Darren Skuse; Senior Advisor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Meeting with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra

Stakeholders	Purpose
Alice Gralton; Adviser, Office of the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources; Minister for Northern Australia	Meeting with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra
Zackary Drury and Nick Green; Senior Advisors to the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP; Treasurer	Meeting with Kimberley Regional Group – 1–2 September in Canberra
Janine Hatch; Director; RDA Kimberley	Assistance with securing meetings in Canberra
Ruth Webber and Fiona Sterle; Advisors; Senator Glenn Sterle	Assistance with securing meetings in Canberra
WA Canberra Hub Reception	KRG visit - Western Australian Canberra Hub 1st and 2nd September 2025
Justine White; Conference Manager; 2025 DNA Conference	Developing Northern Australia Conference logistics
Amy Bracegirdle; Acting Chief of Staff and Cassandra Maney; Senior Policy Adviser for Hon. Amber Jade Sanderson MLA; Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara	KRG matters. Meeting held 1 August 2025
Hon John Carey MLA; Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure	KRG matters. Meeting held 5 August 2025.
Anthony Kannis; Director General; Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	Meeting request. Meeting held 19 August 2025
Hon Don Punch MLA; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West; Member for Bunbury	Meeting request. Meeting held 27 August 2025
Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA; At Attorney General; Minister for Commerce; Tertiary and International Education; Multicultural Interests	Meeting request
John Hutchison; Superintendent Kimberley Police	Community Safety and Crime Prevention. Meeting held 19 August 2025
Shane Love MLA; Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs, Kirrilee Warr MLA; Shadow Minister for Local Government, Julie Freeman MLC; Leader of the Nationals WA in the Legislative Council; Shadow Minister for Road Safety; Creative Industries; Assisting the Shadow Minister for Regional Development	Meeting request. Meeting held 11 August 2025

Stakeholders	Purpose
Shane Love MLA; Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs	Attend September KRG Meeting
Hon Neil Thomson MLC; Shadow Minister for Planning and Lands; Aboriginal Affairs; Seniors	Attend September KRG Meeting
Hon Melissa Price MP; Liberal Federal Member for Durack; Shadow Minister for Cyber Security; Shadow Minister for Science	Attend September KRG Meeting
Basil Zempilas MLA; Leader of the Opposition; Leader of the WA Liberal Party; Shadow Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests	Attend September KRG Meeting
Sara Peacock, Senior Policy and Project Officer Freight, Ports, Aviation and Reform, Department of Transport and Peter Ryan, Director of Aviation will also join the meeting	Meeting to discuss both opportunities and challenges faced when it comes to regional aviation and how it can support economic development in the regions. Meeting held 11 August 2025. Updated to be provided in General Business

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 8th of the month to 7th 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	24.5	22	19.25	26	3	5	10
Mar 25	25	25	22	18.25	26	4	5	11
Apr 25	25	40	22	18.50	26	13	5	6
May 25	25	15	22	21.75	26	10	5	10
June 25	25	24	22	27.50	26	26	5	17
July 25	25	46.5	22	16.25	26	36	5	20
Aug 25	25	12	22	17.50	26	4	5	12
TOTALS	280	328	242	254.75	288	211.5	54	122
OVERALL CONTRACT: 864 ACTUALS: 916.25								

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

18. General Business

Item	Responsible	Comments /Actions Arising
Shared Services	Executive Officer	Refer Item 12.
Outcome of meeting with Sara Peacock, Senior Policy and Project Officer Freight, Ports, Aviation and Reform, Department of Transport	Executive Officer	The Executive Officer met with Peter Ryan, Director of Aviation, and Sarah Peacock on 11 August 2025 to discuss both opportunities and challenges faced when it comes to regional aviation and how it can support economic development in the regions. The Executive Officer to provide an update accordingly.
Outcome of meeting with Hon Don Punch MLA; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West; Member for Bunbury	Executive Officer	Executive Officer met with Minister Punch on 27 August 2025 to discuss Kununurra and Ord Irrigation District water issues. The Executive Officer to provide an update accordingly.
2026 Meeting dates	Executive Officer	The Executive Officer to provide an update accordingly. The Executive Team to liaise with members to determine suitable dates for 2026 meetings. A draft calendar of 2026 meeting dates to be presented at the meeting on 14 November.

Attachment 19: 2025 Meeting dates

CEO Ringaround

In Person Meetings

Zoom meetings

State Council

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
November	CEO Ringaround	7/11/25	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Strategic Planning Session	14/11/25	9:00am – 12:00pm	Shire of Broome
	KRG only meeting		1:00pm – 3:00pm	
	Zone only meeting	21/11/25	9:00am – 9:45am	Zoom

Meeting Closure: 11.59am