

MEDIA RELEASE – 5th July 2018

Local projects get a kick start with government funding

Regional towns across the north and north-west have secured much needed funding to get local projects kick-started, which will help create more jobs and drive economic growth.

Eleven projects across the Regional Development Townsville and North West Queensland region will share in funding of more than \$670,000, under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund Community Investment Stream Round 2.

The projects include developing plans; to drive employment in the Burketown region, to deliver a path and trail network within the Wallaman Falls area, for community-driven improvements in the McKinlay Shire and for the provision of specialist disability accommodation in Charters Towers.

RDA Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner said RDA had played a lead role in promoting and supporting the BBRF program.

"RDA held free workshops to provide potential applicants with advice on developing strong applications, as well as providing one-on-one advice and letters of support," Ms Schuntner said.

"This BBRF program allows councils and not-for-profit organisations to progress with planning projects such as infrastructure and tourism opportunities, which has a flow on affect in creating more jobs and boosting the local economy.

"A lot of small community projects would not be able to get off the ground without the support of Australian Government programs, such as BBRF."

Projects in the RDA region successful in the BBRF Round 2 Community Investment Stream include;
Burke Shire Council: \$20,000 to develop a strategic plan for sport and physical recreational activities
Cloncurry Shire Council: \$15,000 to create a strategic plan, which will detail a five year 'Economic Development Plan'

Gulf Savannah Development Inc: \$75,000 to deliver a branding strategy to drive increased employment in the region of Burektown

Hinchinbrook Shire Council: \$75,000 to develop a 10 year Strategic Master Plan for development of a path and trail network within Wallaman Falls section of the Girrigin National Park

McKinlay Shire Council: \$68,190 to develop a 'Community & Infrastructure Plan' to enable council to deliver community-driven improvements to the shire

Mount Isa Chamber of Commerce: \$15,036 to host an event with keynote speaker Mark McCrindle, targeted at management, team leaders and employees

Prospect Community Services Ltd: \$187,000 to develop a blueprint for the provision of specialist disability accommodation with assistive technology in rural and remote settings in Charters Towers

Southern Gulf NRM Ltd: \$124,995 to develop a collaborative Southern Gulf Regional Invasive Pest and Weed Strategy in partnership with nine local governments in North West Queensland

Stage Queensland Incorporated: \$20,000 to fund the audit of major performing arts venues in nine northern Queensland locations, to show priorities for venue maintenance and upgrades (RDA region includes: Mount Isa, South Townsville, Townsville City, Charters Towers and Ayr)



Steps Group Australia Limited (Cloncurry): \$53,588 to introduce virtual reality technology delivered by a mobile van into 14 remote and rural communities in Western Queensland – to inspire people to explore and connect with career, job and training opportunities

Townsville Enterprise Ltd: \$20,000 to deliver the 2018/19 Townsville Enterprise Emerging Leaders Program

The councils and organisations received a total of \$673,809 in funding to put towards local projects worth a total of \$798,204.

More information about the Building Better Regions Fund is available at: www.business.gov.au/bbrf.

Media Contact: Glenys Schuntner 07 4410 3655

