



The Hon Nola Marino MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

RDA TOWNSVILLE AND NORTH WEST QUEENSLAND SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of RDA Townsville and North West Queensland in supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Led by Chair Mr Frank Beveridge, RDA Townsville and North West Queensland's engagement with their community, businesses and all levels of Government has been vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

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

- Engaging with stakeholders, clients and all levels of government to identify projects that could be fast-tracked to stimulate the economy and create jobs;
- Participating in a number of regional economic development committees, including those with a focus on recovery and jobs;
- Developing a cross-regional economic recovery and growth plan to identify regional and sub-regional priorities which will be provided to all levels of government; and
- Providing regular information on initiatives and support programs offered by the Australian Government.

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

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

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

If you would like to learn more about how RDA Townsville and North West Queensland is able to assist you, visit its website at www.rdanwq.org.au/.

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