

# Introducing RDA Committee Members



**Cr Frank Beveridge**

*Chairman*

Frank joined RDA in 2016 and is the Mayor of Charters Towers Regional Council, having served in local government for 16 years, previously as Deputy Mayor and Councillor. Frank has been in small business for 30 years in the region and is married with four children.



**Mr David Donohue**

*Deputy Chair*

David joined RDA in 2015. He is an experienced company director and serves as President of TropLinks Inc. David is the Managing Director of Townsville headquartered Queensland Corporate Communications Network (QCCN). He represents RDA on the Small Business Recovery Advisory Council.



**Mr Chris Briggs**

*Secretary*

Chris joined RDA in 2018 and is General Manager at SeaLink Queensland in Townsville. He has many years experience within senior and executive management teams. Chris previously worked with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as Director Tourism and Stewardship. He has also held a number of committee positions for industry associations and sporting clubs.



**Cr Mary Brown**

*Treasurer*

Mary joined RDA in 2017 and is a Councillor at Hinchinbrook Shire Council. She has over 30 years experience within private enterprise, has raised six children with her husband and has established several local businesses. Mary is also a past President of the Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce.



**Prof. Sabina Knight**

Sabina joined RDA in 2013. The Director of Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University, she is an internationally recognised rural health leader with an extensive career in remote and rural primary health care, public health and education, and community development.



**Cr Greg Campbell**

Greg joined RDA in 2017 and is Mayor of Cloncurry Shire Council. He also served as Deputy Mayor 2008-2012 and as a councillor 2004-2008. He worked over 20 years in the energy industry, including technical and managerial roles with Ergon Energy in the North West.



**Cr June Kuhl**

June joined RDA in 2017 and is a Councillor at Richmond Shire Council, having served in local government for nine years, previously as Deputy Mayor and Councillor. June and her husband Gavin have operated a grazing property for almost 40 years.



**Cr Jack Bawden**

Jack joined RDA in 2018 and is Mayor of Carpentaria Shire Council. He is Chair of the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils and a member of the North West Queensland Regional Roads Group. Jack also operates an auto electrical/mechanical work shop in Normanton.



**Glenys Schuntner**

*CEO*

Glenys joined RDA in 2010. Her previous positions include CEO of Townsville Enterprise, senior roles at the Australian Trade Commission and management positions in the airline and retail travel industries. Glenys is the Chair of the Advisory Group on Northern Australia and Deputy Chair of the JCU Townsville Fire.

## Members

Committee members are volunteers who have applied for the roles, and have been selected and appointed based on their extensive knowledge, experience, networks in the region and their passion for supporting regional development. For more information about nominating to join the RDA Committee, please visit <https://rda.gov.au/join-your-rda/> and feel free to contact the RDA office in Townsville for more specific information about operations across the North and North West Queensland region.

## Regional Facts

- Region comprises of 15 local governments— 25.9% of Queensland's area
- Population of 267,000 - 5.5% of Queensland's population
- Gross Regional Product in 2017/18 \$16.8 billion
- Economic strengths include; agriculture/cattle, mining, defence, tourism, education and research

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# Introducing Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland

**Regional Development Australia** is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of the regions.

Committees have an active and facilitative role in their communities and a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment.

Working in close partnership with fellow Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, Committees will:

1. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify economic opportunities and leverage private and public sector investment to the regions;
2. Connect regional businesses, councils and industry sectors with international trade partners, financial markets and potential investors;
3. Promote and disseminate information on Australian Government policies and grant programs to state and local governments and industry, business and community sectors;
4. Support community stakeholders to develop project proposals to access funding;
5. Develop and maintain positive working relationships with the local government bodies in their regions;
6. Facilitate public and private sector decentralisation;
7. Assist in the delivery of Australian Government programs, where relevant and where requested by the Minister;
8. Engage with regional entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders to explore new opportunities to grow local jobs in their regions;
9. Provide information on their region's activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors; and
10. Provide evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on critical regional development issues positively and negatively



There are 52 regional development committees in Australia, 12 of which are in Queensland.

**Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland Inc (RDA)** was established as an incorporated not-for-profit association in 2009 to work across the north and north-west Queensland region, covering the local government areas of Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington Island, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Richmond and Townsville.

***RDA facilitates and advocates for sustainable economic development by collaborating with regional stakeholders***

