Introducing
RDA Committee Members

Regional Development Australia
TOWNSVILLE AND NORTH WEST QLD

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 Queensland Corporate Communications Network (QCCN). He represents RDA on the Small Business Recovery Adviosry Council.

Mr Chris Briggs
Secretary

Chris joined RDA in 2018 and is the General Manager of Sealink QLD in Townsville. He has experience within senior and executive management teams. Chris previously worked with GBRMPA as Director Tourism and Stewardship. He has also held a number of committee positions for industry associations and sporting clubs.

Cr Mary Brown
Treasurer

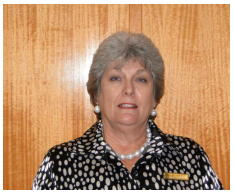
Mary joined RDA in 2017 and is a Councillor at Hinchinbrook Shire Council. She has over 30 years' experience in private enterprise, has raised six children and has established several local businesses. Mary is also a past president of the Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce.

Prof. Sabina Knight

Sabina joined RDA in 2013. The Director for the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook Universiry, 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 the Mayor of Cloncurry Shire Council. he also served as Deputy Mayor 2008 - 2012 and as a concillor in 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 Organisations of Councils and a member of the North West Queensland Regional Roads Group. Jack also operates an auto electrical/mechanical workshop 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 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— 26% of Queensland's area
- Population of 267,385 - 5.3% of Queensland's population
- Gross Regional Product in 2018/19 $16.9 billion
- Key Industries:- agriculture/cattle, mining, manufacturing, defence/government, tourism, education/training and research, construction, health & social services

Keep up to date with RDA on Social Media and our website.

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An Australian Government Initiative

Introducing

Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland

Regional Development Australia
TOWNSVILLE AND NORTH WEST QLD

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 their regions.

RDA 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 economic opportunity and attract investment.

Collaborating with other RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees' Charter is to:-

1. Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investments, local procurement and jobs;
2. Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research;
3. Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues;
4. Co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

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's core role is to facilitate and advocate for sustainable economic development by collaborating with regional stakeholders. Current projects include:-

Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) – RDA is the Secretariat of this project that has brought together 28 local governments, 5 RDA Committees and RACQ to advocate for a long-term, network wide approach to road planning and investment with the common goal to improve regional sustainability, productivity, and safety on Queensland's inland road network.

Building Jobs in Northern Queensland – This Australian Government funded project has focussed on enhancing connectivity and information sharing between stakeholders in the civil and commercial construction related sectors to encourage workforce development and new employment opportunities. RDA has delivered webinars, videos, online databases of regional projects and economic reports and distributed information through various channels.

Aviation Industry Development– RDA has consulted and delivered a SWOT analysis and report on opportunities to develop the Aviation Industry in our region focussing on, but not limited to, pilot and aviation mechanic training, aircraft maintenance, the increasing utilisation of drones and supply chain opportunities.

STEMBooster - The STEMBooster Project is a major skills and economic development initiative to develop the pipeline of talent to fulfil the increasing demand for STEM skills in North and North West Queensland. RDA is advocating for funding to take this initiative forward.

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