MEDIA RELEASE

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RDA Townsville and North West Queensland announces changing of the guard

Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland (RDA) has announced upcoming changes to its CEO position. Inaugural CEO, Glenys Schuntner, announced her retirement in May after 11 years at the helm and today RDA announces its appointment of new CEO, Wayde Chiesa.

Glenys Schuntner joined RDA Townsville and North West Queensland in April 2010 and has played a vital role in driving investment into the region, creating jobs and economic growth for North and North West Queensland. Glenys has been a pivotal part in the success of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP), helping to drive the Northern Australia agenda and working with a variety of government and private sector stakeholders to progress important regional projects.

Cr Frank Beveridge, Chairman said: "We thank our departing CEO, Glenys Schuntner, who has made a remarkable impact on the economic development of North and North West Queensland. On behalf of current and former committee members and all stakeholders in the region, I wish to acknowledge and thank her for her significant contributions over the past 11 years in her role and we wish her all the best in her retirement. Glenys will be best remembered for her driving passion to support the region's future as evidenced by her leadership in the IQ-RAP project to help Councils secure $2billion in funding for the Inland Queensland road network and the support she has given investors and project proponents to secure funding".

Glenys Schuntner said: "It has been an absolute honour to work for RDA. I thank the current and former committee members, staff and our partners and stakeholders in economic development for their support and spirit of collaboration to advance our great region. It has been a great team effort. I look forward to my retirement, my on-going volunteer role as Chair of the JCU Townsville Fire and spending more time with my family and friends and hopefully travelling too".

Wayde Chiesa joins RDA after previously working at Townsville Enterprise Limited as their Director – Regional Development and Investment and brings with him a strong awareness of the region's industries, economic sectors, and the current opportunities and challenges facing business in the region. He has over 20 years' experience as a finance and business professional working for organisations including Townsville City Council, PricewaterhouseCoopers, BHP Billiton and Incitec Pivot and will bring with him key relationships with State and Federal government.

Cr Frank Beveridge, Chairman said: "I look forward to working with our newly appointed CEO, Wayde Chiesa, to continue our role to grow a strong, confident and vibrant region".

Wayde Chiesa, incoming CEO said "It's an incredibly exciting time to be joining the organisation. This region has amazing strengths that we can look to capitalise on to not only ensure our existing industries are strong, but we create new ones that secure the future for our next generation.

"I look forward to working with the RDA Committee and staff as we work towards seizing these opportunities and attracting investment into our region. And I'm excited to get out to all 15 local government areas and meeting the people that make this region tick."

Glenys Schuntner will retire on the 6th August after a hand over period with Wayde Chiesa.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) 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 with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment.

For more information about RDA, visit our website: www.rdanwq.org.au

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