

NEWS UPDATE



Welcome from the Chair

I'm honoured to be appointed Chair of Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland at such an important time for our region.

Just a few days into the role, I had the privilege of joining the Mayors of the North West Regional Organisation of Councils and the Deputy Premier in Brisbane to officially launch two new websites showcasing the opportunities to live and work in North West Queensland. It was a wonderful introduction and an early opportunity to connect with many passionate local leaders committed to the future of their communities.

Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting with more stakeholders across the region to listen, learn, and continue the important conversations already underway.

Key issues such as workforce and housing remain front of mind, and I am excited to build on the strong work already done by the committee, RDA team, and our many partners. Together, we will continue to back local industries, drive regional growth, and deliver meaningful outcomes for our communities.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy Easter.

Warm regards,
Debra Burden
Chair
RDA Townsville and North West Queensland



CEO Update

The past few months have continued to build momentum for our region, and I want to thank our partners for the genuine collaboration that continues to underpin this progress.

A major highlight was the official launch of the Jobs North West Queensland and Live North West Queensland platforms in Brisbane, joined by the Deputy Premier and leaders from across the North West. These platforms are more than just website, they're practical tools designed to support council, industry and community efforts to attract and retain the people needed to drive regional growth.

They represent months of coordinated effort with 11 councils and a broad range of stakeholders, and I'd like to thank everyone involved for their commitment.

Meanwhile, the Jobs Townsville North Queensland initiative continues to focus on aligning training and education pathways to meet the future workforce needs of our region. We've also released new research, including our North Queensland Workforce Environmental Scan and Strategic Implications of North West Queensland's Major Projects, which provide a clearer picture of what's ahead and why planning and coordinated action are needed now.

We know that housing, workforce, and enabling infrastructure remain front of mind, and RDA will continue working closely with our local partners and all levels of government to support solutions.

Wishing you and your families a safe and restful Easter break.

Kind regards,

Wayde Chiesa

Chief Executive Officer

RDA Townsville & North West Queensland





Strategic Implications of North West Queensland's Major Projects

Commissioned by Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland and Jobs Townsville North Queensland, the report outlines the scale and significance of the developments set to transform the region's economic future.

- [DOWNLOAD DIGITAL COPY](#)

North Queensland Workforce Environmental Scan

North and North West Queensland are on the cusp of major growth, driven by large-scale projects in energy, mining, and infrastructure. This Environmental Scan examines labour market readiness and highlights the urgent need for a coordinated Workforce Development Roadmap to meet future demand.

- [DOWNLOAD THE SUMMARY](#)
- [DOWNLOAD DIGITAL COPY](#)

North West Queensland

Come for the opportunity. Stay for the adventure.



The new Live North West Queensland and Jobs North West Queensland sites are connecting people with real jobs, community insights, and the unique lifestyle the region offers. Explore the sites and share them with your networks -

Jobs North West Queensland

Live North West Queensland

*Developed across 11 Councils, Jobs North West Queensland and Live North West Queensland is a partnership between **North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils** and **RDA Townsville and North West Queensland**, proudly funded by the **Queensland Government** through the **North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy**.*



Jobs Townsville North Queensland (JTNQ) Spotlight

Strategic Priorities for Regional Workforce Development

JTNQ's strategic priorities focus on:

- Growing Local Talent: Emphasising the development of a skilled local workforce to meet the demands of upcoming regional projects.
- Enhancing Diversity: Implementing initiatives that promote inclusive hiring practices and support diverse job seekers.
- Strengthening Education-Industry Links: Fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industries to ensure training programs align with current and future job market needs.

These priorities aim to ensure that North Queensland's workforce is prepared to capitalise on the region's economic growth and development opportunities.

Education and Training Workshop

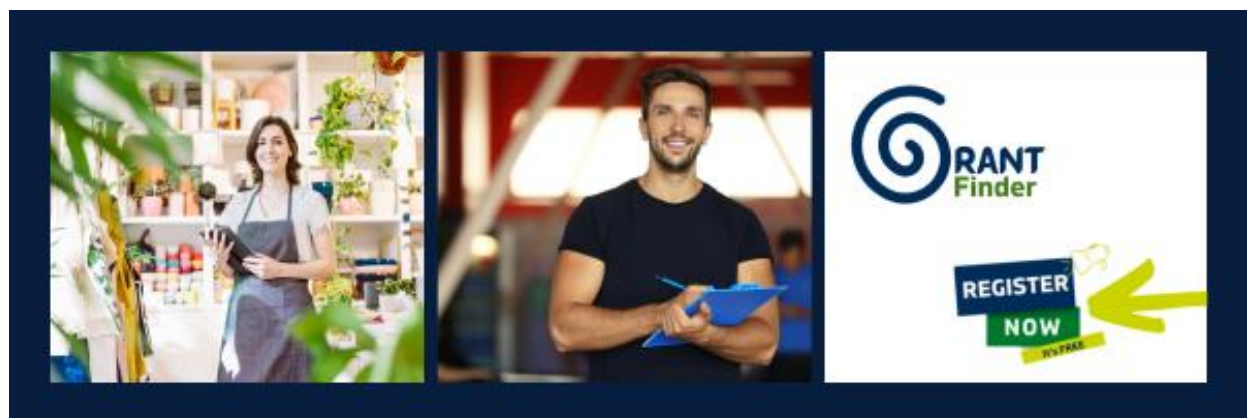
Education and training remain a key focus, with ongoing collaboration between JTNQ and the education sector. This work is helping to address critical skills shortages and better align training with current and future workforce needs.

Improving Diversity and Inclusive Hiring

A recent JTNQ workshop explored practical ways for employers to attract and retain underrepresented job seekers. Local businesses, employment services, and community groups came together to share strategies that support a more inclusive regional workforce.

Turning Insights into Action

JTNQ's Parent Survey revealed how families influence career decisions in North Queensland. The results highlight what shapes student subject choices, how parents view key industries, and where support gaps exist. These insights will guide future school engagement, campaigns, and initiatives to help young people make more informed career choices.



Find the Right Grant - Faster

Missed deadlines and last-minute grant scrambles? Not anymore.

RDA's Grant Finder Tool brings funding opportunities directly to your inbox, tailored to your region, sector, and project needs.

[!\[\]\(0b5e7e25e8775f7e7e80906ada4f0021_img.jpg\) Setup your Grant Alerts now](#)

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