



Regional Capitals Alliance

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Regional Capitals Alliance
Meeting

MINUTES

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MINUTES

1 OFFICIAL OPENING

10.30am

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members:

Peter Long	Mayor City of Karratha (Chair)
Chris Adams	CEO City of Karratha
Dennis Wellington	Mayor City of Albany
Andrew Sharpe	CEO City of Albany
Harold Tracey	Mayor Shire of Broome
Sam Mastrolembro	CEO Shire of Broome
Gary Barbour	Director Planning and Development City of Bunbury
Grant Henley	Mayor City of Busselton
Mike Archer	CEO City of Busselton
Victoria Brown	Shire President Shire of Esperance
Shane van Styn	Mayor City of Greater-Geraldton
John Bowler	Mayor City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
John Walker	CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Jason Whiteaker	CEO Shire of Northam
Paul Rosair	Executive Officer RCAWA
Jane Lewis	Executive Assistant to the Executive Officer RCAWA

Dial in:

Camilo Blanco	Mayor Town of Port Hedland
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Guests:

- Ralph Addis and Niegel Grazia: Director General and Deputy Director General – DPIRD
- Mike Rowe and Germaine Larcombe: Director General and Director Regulatory Capability – DWER
- Julie DeJong, Executive Director – Strategic Business Innovation – DMIRS

Apologies:

Gary Brennan	Mayor City of Bunbury
Malcolm Osbourne	CEO City of Bunbury
Matthew Scott	CEO Shire of Esperance
Ross McKim	CEO City of Greater Geraldton
Chris Antonio	Shire President Shire of Northam
David Pentz	CEO Town of Port Hedland

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Attachment: Action Sheet

RCAWA Resolution

That the Minutes of the Western Australian Regional Capitals Alliance Meeting held on Thursday, 7 February 2019, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

MOVED: Grant Henley - Mayor City of Busselton

SECONDED: Victoria Brown - Shire President Shire of Esperance

CARRIED

DATE	ITEM	ACTION	STATUS	PRIORITY	COMMENTS
			OS= Outstanding I= In Progress C=Complete OG=ON GOING	1=Urgent 2=high 3=moderate 4=low	* = will be archived and will not show in future reports
		ADMINISTRATION, CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL REPORT, GENERAL BUSINESS			
7/2/19	9. RCAWA Annual Report	That the Annual report be received and endorsed for publication on website and filed with Secretariat	C	2	Tishka – phoned re website 2nd April
7/2/19	10. Federal Election Pitch	That the Federal Election Pitch flyer be circulated to CEOs for final review before publication and that printing (to a max of \$300) be endorsed if deemed necessary	C	2	Flyers printed and distributed. EO gave copies to Steve Irons for distribution to all Ministers.
7/2/19	7. EO Tri-Monthly report	EO write to the Premier seeking commitment to ministerial engagement with RCAWA	C	1	Draft letter prepared, including ref to City Deals
13/12/18	8. General Business	RCAWA members provide statistical data/input as requested by the EO to enable the development of a comprehensive, compelling Federal Election flyer.	C	1	*
13/12/18	6. RCAWA Annual Report	Annual Report be produced in a format where it can be used as a marketing/promotional tool for RCAWA.	C	1	*
13/12/18	6. RCAWA Annual Report	Treasurer to seek quotes to provide book-keeping services and appoint an appropriate firm to undertake this task, with the maximum value of the contract being \$2000 pa.	C	2	*
15/11/18	8. RCAWA – Federal Election Pitch	EO, in consultation with the Chair and Secretary, proceed to produce an ‘info-graphic’ flyer about RCAWA’s collaborative arrangements.	C	1	*
15/11/18	7. RCA Annual Report	The EO to finalise the Annual Report 2017/18 with out-of-session consultations, for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.	C	2	*
15/11/18	6. EO Tri Monthly Report (Aug-October)	A RCAWA letter be written to the Hon. Rick Wilson congratulating him on the successful WA Regional Showcase event held in Canberra.	C	3	*
1/8/18	6. EO Bi monthly Report (June-July 2018)	EO to draft a letter for the RCAWA President signature to the Premier and Minister for Planning, Lands and Transport seeking RCAWA representation on the board of the Infrastructure WA.	C	3	*
1/8/18	6. EO Bi monthly Report (June-July 2018)	EO to undertake investigations regarding the application and approvals process associated with the State’s “Innovation Fund to Drive Regional Jobs.”	C	3	*

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14/6/18	6. EO Bi Monthly Report	EO to seek a meeting with the Minister for Regional Development to discuss: a) Regional Centres Development Plan b) Innovation fund Investment Framework	C	2	*
6/12/17	7. EO Quarterly report (Sept-Nov 2017)	RCAWA to send letter to Duncan Ord thanking him for attending meeting	C	3	*
6/12/18	7. EO Quarterly report (Sept-Nov 2017)	EO to prepare a paper on options for benchmarking/best practice review amongst the RCAWA members.	C	3	*
1/8/17	6. EO Bi-Monthly Update	1. Write to Minister MacTiernan regarding engagement with WARCA and Innovation Hubs 2. Prepare a template questionnaire regarding what each WARCA member is doing in way of Innovation Hubs	C	3	*
15/6/17	8. WARCA Rules of Association.	WARCA to apply to the Dept for Commerce to become an incorporated association.	C	3	*
15/6/17	10. WARCA Website and Communications Strategy	NAJA to create a high-level Communications Plan as part of the EO role	C	3	*
		RURAL FIRE DIVISION			
1/8/18	12.1 Other Business	1. RCAWA write to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Fran Logan, indication RCAWA's strong preference for the proposed new Rural Fire division to be located in a RCAWA location. 2. Seek a meeting with the Minister to discuss this matter.	C	2	EO met on 6/3 – discussed location and RCAWA input into procedure and policy development and bush fire risks in relation to Crown Land management
		TOURISM			
7/2/19	8. Tourism Round-table	Information from the Round-Table discussion be summarised and any forthcoming actions be prioritised accordingly.	C	2	Email sent to CEOs 18/2 ATE invitations sent 24/3 Refer Agenda Item 13
		NATIONAL SETTLEMENT STRATEGY			
15/11/18	9. National Settlement Strategy	Chair to write to the Hon. Allen Tudge Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population; the Hon. Shayne	C	3	*

		Neumann Shadow Minister for immigration and border Protection, and the Planning Institute of WA informing them of the importance of WA's Regional Capitals and our interest in being actively involved in the discussions regarding the National Settlement Strategy.			
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		MODERNISING THE WA PLANNING SYSTEM			
7/2/19	11. Update – Modernising the WA Planning System	Defer consideration of position until the White Paper on planning Reform is released			Defer -Consult with Evan Hall; see other business
15/11/18	10. Update – Modernising the WA Planning System	The EO to identify key issues contained within the RCAWA submission document and collate a short summary document that highlights the key initiatives that RCAWA members would like to see as part of this reform process.	I	3	A Action deferred: EO met with Graham Gammy re next stages of white paper. Note: Graham has recently been appointed CEO of Landgate and Kathy Bonus from Dpt of Planning is now leading the reform process. EO will organise a meeting with her.
1/8/18	9. Modernising the WA Planning System	EO to submit a joint response to the Planning Submission Green Paper after circulation to Alliance members out-of-session.	C	2	
		WORKERS COMP AND INSURANCE			
15/11/18	11. Workers Compensation Claims Analysis	That the information be noted and the EO to arrange a further meeting immediately prior to the December RCAWA meeting with the LGIS to specifically discuss premiums and claims history for RCAWA members.	OG		A EO has received an email from Jonathon Seth, still no offer. Concern over LGIS dealing directly with individual councils
15/11/18	15. Other Business	LG Professionals -Members signed program on 7/10. EO to follow up discounts.	OG	3	A Andrew Sharpe has provided an alternative proposal, see Item 10 today's meeting

1/8/18	12.2 Workers compensation collaborative Insurance opportunities	RCAWA to forward their 10-year premium payments and claims history data to the EO and/or Secretariat as a precursor to a report to the October RCAWA meeting on this matter.	C	2	
1/8/18	8. LG Professionals-discount for RCAWA Members.	Alliance to decide on acceptance of LG offer by 15/8/18. EO to further this arrangement with the CEO of LG Professionals.	C C	3 3	*Not proceeding
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		REGIONAL INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK			
15/11/18	15. Other Business: Regional Investment Framework	EO and the City of Busselton work on developing a proposed implementation plan for the proposed 'Future Funding Strategy' paper. (Being cognisant of RCAWA Regional Investment Framework)	OG	3	A EO and Mike Archer met on 5-3 and discussed Mikes future funding strategy paper. EO to update Regional Investment Framework to incorporate this.
12/4/18	9. EO – As Above: Regional Investment Framework	1. Letter for submission to the Premier of WA with a copy to the Treasurer and Ministers of Planning, Local Gov and Regional Development 2. EO to pursue follow up meetings to progress advocacy on this matter 3. Copy of letter to be sent to the opposition party spokespeople on Regional Development.	C C C	2 2 2	*
8/2/18	14.	Covering letter (to be signed by the Chair) is sent to Premier of WA with a copy to the Treasurer and Ministers of Planning and Regional Development briefly explaining the framework and linkages to the 2017 State Budget.	C	2	*
6/12/17	9.	RCAWA members to provide feedback to EO on Regional Investment Framework asap EO to provide final report to Feb meeting.	C	2	*
		MACWA AWARDS			

15/11/18	12. Update MACWA Awards and Proposed Framework	Appoint Melissa Northcott as ambassador of the MACWA Awards. Increase the budget to \$1500 for the 2019 awards.	C	3	See Agenda Item 13 for update on completed action for 2019 awards
FEDERAL CITY DEALS					
1/8/18	7. Federal City Deals Selection	1. Letter to Premier of WA notifying him of the Alliance position and seeking the State's support to progress the Alliance's nomination to the next stage. 2. EO to request a meeting with the Premier (with a delegation from RCAWA) to discuss the City Deal proposal.	OG I	2 2	Letter drafted
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12/4/18	15	EO to devise a process whereby RCAWA members can "pitch" to other members re why they should be selected as the first WA location for a City Deal with the aim of RCAWA nomination which location it supports and advocating on that basis.	C	3	*
8/2/18	15	EO to write to relevant State Ministers seeking their support for WA regional cities to be engaged/involved in the Federal Gov City Deal Programme	C	3	*
REVIEW OF HERITAGE OF WA ACT 1990					
12/4/18	10. Review of the Heritage of WA Act 1990	1. EO continue to liaise with the Assistant Director General, Heritage Services on the framing of the new regulations under the Act. 2. EO to provide a brief submission from the Alliance to the Heritage Services division, reflecting the concerns of the alliance, to influence the framing of regulations under the Act.	C C	3 3	
8/2/18	9	EO continue to liaise with the Assistant Director General, Heritage Services to identify opportunities to reflect Alliance member concerns in the drafting of regulations and procedures.	C	3	*
6/12/17	7	EO to prepare a paper for RCAWA on the Heritage Act Review.	C	3	*

REVIEW OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM					
12/4/18	11. Review of Public Libraries System	1. four remaining councils send in responses. 2. EO to modify the submissions as necessary to reflect additional comments 3. EO to send submissions to the review team.	C C C	3 3 3	*
8/2/18	12.	Alliance to consider the submission of a joint response to the survey on the Public Library Strategy.	C	3	*
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SERVICE PRIORITY REVIEW					
12/4/18	13. Service Priority Review – Update	A workshop to be run at the meeting in Kalgoorlie re: a) Best practice egs of gov service delivery b) Specific initiatives that should/could be implemented in RCAWA locations re State Gov services	C	2	*
8/2/18	13	EO to continue to liaise with the review custodians to look for opportunities for the Alliance to influence implementation	C	2	*
6/12/17	10	EO to continue to liaise with Service Priority review Officials and panel to influence the implementation of the governments final report, ensuring opportunities for the Alliance are considered.	C	2	*
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY STRATEGY					
1/8/18	10. Alternative Energy Strategy.	1. EO to progress discussions with stakeholders with the aim of: a) developing a MOU between the parties pertaining to alternative energy b) developing a RCAWA policy position/statement regarding renewable energy	I	2	A EO to address
12/4/18	16	2. Information on current status of renewable energy initiative within the various RCAWA member localities be	I	2	EO to address

		periodically updated/reviewed with the aim of updating and sharing on best-practice examples. EO to invite Energy Proponents working on the Albany project to present to the RCAWA members at the Kalgoorlie meeting.			
		SENATE ECONOMICS REFERENCE COMMITTEE			
14/6/18	9. Senate Economics References Committee	EO, (on behalf of the Alliance) to follow up with the Senate Economics Reference Committee for an opportunity to attend a hearing	I	1	EO attended hearing
12/4/18		EO to work with member CEO's and RCA to develop and submit a response to the Senate Inquiry into the Indicators of, and impact of, regional inequality in Australia.	C	2	*
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12/4/18	7. Local GVT Act Review – Update	EO to continue to advocate on behalf of the Alliance regarding the Local Government Act review noting that the four key principles as previously agreed by the group be strongly reiterated: 1. IPR forms the framework 2. Consistent and easy to read 3. “general Competence” principle based 4. Local Gov requirements are comparable to State Gov requirements.	OG	2	EO meeting with Duncan Ord 12 April 2019
6/12/17	8.	1. EO provides information to the Department of Local Gov, Sports and Cultural Industries and continues to liaise and advocate with relevant gov and industry bodies throughout the legislative drafting process. 2. EO to undertake a “cross checking” exercise to ensure that the RCAWA’s submission to WALGA/DLGC appropriately addresses all issues that are canvassed in the recently release DLGC discussion paper.	OG C	3 2	

5 CORRESPONDENCE

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	Correspondence In and Out

Correspondence In:

Date: 26 February 2019
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Minister for Transport
Re: Infrastructure WA

Date: 14 March 2019
Hon Peter Tinley
Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation – YES August

Date: 18 March 2019
Hon Ben Wyatt MLA
Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Aboriginal Affairs, Lands
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation - NO

Date: 19 March 2019
Hon Francis Logan MLA
Minister for Corrective Services and Emergency Services
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation - NO

Date: 19 March 2019
Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations
Member for Cannington
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation – YES, August

Date: 21 March 2019
Hon Michelle Roberts MLA
Minister for Police & Road Safety
Member for Midland
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation - NO

Date: 25 March 2019
Hon Dave Kelly MLA
Minister for Water, Fisheries, Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation – YES October

Correspondence Out:

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon Ben Wyatt MLA
Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Aboriginal Affairs, Lands
Re: RCAWA Meeting invitation

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon. D.J. Kelly, MLA
Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon. F.M. Logan, MLA
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services
Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon. J.R. Quigley, MLA
Attorney General; Minister for Commerce
Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon. P. Papalia, MLA
Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon. P.C. Tinley, MLA
Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement
Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019
Hon. R.H. Cook, MLA
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health
Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019

Hon. S.F. McGurk, MLA

Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services

Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019

Hon. S.M. Ellery, MLC

Minister for Education and Training

Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019

Hon. S.N. Dawson, MLC

Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs

Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 12 March 2019

Hon. W.J. Johnston, MLA

Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations

Re: RCAWA Meeting Invitation

Date: 2 April 2019

Melissa Northcott

4 Hansen road

Seville Grove 6112

RE: MARCA Awards

Date: 2 April 2019

Julie Waylen

PO BOX 184

Northbridge 6865

RE: MARCA Awards

Date: 2 April 2019

Bruce Langoulant

PO BOX 214

Donnybrook 6239

RE: MARCA Awards



Minister for Transport; Planning

Our ref: 72-17154
Your ref: OCR178170

Mr Peter Long
Chair
Regional Capitals Alliance
admin@WAregionalcapitals.com.au

Dear Mr Long

INFRASTRUCTURE WA

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 January 2019 regarding your request for appointment of the Regional Capitals Alliance as a member of Infrastructure WA. The Minister has asked me to respond.

The State Government recognises the importance of infrastructure in enabling regional economic activity and development, and the central role Western Australian regional capitals serve at a state, national and international level, including the export-focused agricultural, resource and tourism sectors.

The Infrastructure WA Bill has been drafted and is planned to be introduced into Parliament in the near future. John Langoulant AO has been appointed as the Infrastructure WA chair-designate and an expression of interest will be released in the coming months to select other board members.

Infrastructure WA will be responsible for considering the strategic infrastructure requirements of the State, including through the development of a long-term State Infrastructure Strategy. I anticipate that Infrastructure WA will collaborate with Regional Capitals Alliance and its members as part of this process.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rita Saffioti'.

HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
26 FEB 2019

Subject: Invitation to Minister Tinley to attend one of RCAWA's Bi-Monthly meetings 2019

Hi Paul

Our Ref: 73-06843

Thank you for the attached letter from Peter Long, Chair, RCAWA inviting Minister Tinley to attend one of RCAWA's Bi-monthly meetings in 2019. Minister Tinley would like to attend the August meeting in Perth please on 1 August. Can you please confirm and advise the venue and can you also advise if any formal duties are required of the Minister.

Regards

Stephanie Holder

Appointments Secretary
Office of Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA
Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement
PH: (08) 6552 5300

Activate Windows

Go to Settings to activate Windows

From: "Hazebroek, Katie" <Katie.Hazebroek@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Date: 18 March 2019 at 3:03:42 pm AWST
To: "paul@naja.com.au" <paul@naja.com.au>
Subject: 69-13151 - Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia

Our Ref: 69-13151
Your Ref: OCR179611

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands, thank you for the invitation to attend upcoming 2019 RCAWA meetings.

Unfortunately, due to heavy diary commitments, the Minister is unavailable for your 2019 meeting dates and sends his apologies.

Please be advised that the Minister will reconsider your attending a meeting if his diary commitments change or the next time he travels to Karratha, we will contact you to advise of his availability and travel dates.

Kind Regards



Office of the Hon. Ben Wyatt MLA
Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands
Member for Victoria Park

+61 8 6552 5900

[11th Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street WEST PERTH WA 6005 Australia](#)

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From: "Logan, Minister" <Minister.Logan@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Date: 19 March 2019 at 3:35:05 pm AWST
To: "paul@naja.com.au" <paul@naja.com.au>
Subject: Invitation Hon Francis Logan MLA

Office Reference: 65-08137

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Office of Hon Francis Logan MLA, Minister for Corrective and Emergency Services.

On behalf of the Minister, I would like to thank you for your request.

Unfortunately, due to heavy diary commitments, the Minister is unable to accept these.

He would like to extend his appreciation for the invitation and sends his sincerest apologies.

Regards,



Ashleigh Hyman Appointments Secretary

Office of the Hon. Francis Logan MLA
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services
Member for Cockburn

Ph: +61 6552 6300 Fax: +61 6552 6301
10th Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street
[WEST PERTH WA 6005 Australia](#)

Date: 20 March 2019 at 12:11:40 pm AWST

To: "paul@naja.com.au" <paul@naja.com.au>

Subject: Minister Johnston - Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA) Bi-Monthly meeting

Our ref: 71-10039

Dear Mr Rosair

On behalf of the Hon Bill Johnston MLA, I'd like to thank Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA) Chair, Peter Long for the invitation to a Bi-Monthly meeting.

I am pleased to advise, Minister Johnston accepted the request. With the list of dates provided, the Minister is currently available to attend on 1 August 2019, and will be accompanied a Policy Adviser.

Please confirm details and once finalised forward an agenda for the meeting.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards



LIDIA TENAGLIA | Appointments Secretary

Office of the Hon Bill Johnston MLA

Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations

Member for Cannington

9th Floor Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street WEST PERTH WA 6005

Ph. +61 8 6552 6700

Email: Minister.Johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au

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From: "Barzotto, Sylvia" <Sylvia.Barzotto@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Date: 20 March 2019 at 11:47:29 am AWST
To: "paul@naja.com.au" <paul@naja.com.au>
Cc: "Hill, Shane" <Shane.Hill@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Subject: **Minister Michelle Roberts RSVP**

Dear Mr Rosair

Minister Roberts would like to thank you for the invitation to attend the RCAWA meeting on April 11th however she is unable to attend due to Parliamentary commitments.

The Minister has asked if you could write and outline to her the police issues that were raised at the February meeting of RCAWA .

Kind regards

Sylvia

SYLVIA BARZOTTO Appointment Secretary

Office of the **Hon. Michelle Roberts MLA**

Minister for Police & Road Safety

Member for Midland

Direct 6552 5798

[+61 8 6552 6900](tel:+61865526900)

12th Floor Dumas House

2 Havelock Street

WEST PERTH WA 6005

From: "Hernandez, Katrina" <Katrina.Hernandez@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Date: 25 March 2019 at 2:01:36 pm AWST
To: "paul@naja.com.au" <paul@naja.com.au>
Subject: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia 2019 meetings

Our ref: 75-08598

Dear Paul Rosair

On behalf of the Hon Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science, I'd like to thank Peter Long for the invitation to attend the RCAWA meetings in 2019.

I am pleased to advise Minister Kelly is available to attend on Thursday 10 October 2019, accompanied by an Adviser (to be confirmed)

Can you please advise closer to the day the location and also provide a draft order of proceedings?

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards



KATRINA HERNANDEZ A/Appointments Secretary
Office of the Hon. Dave Kelly MLA
Minister for Water; Fisheries, Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
+61 8 6552 6100

Activate Windows

Hon. Ben Wyatt, MLA
Treasurer; Minister for Finance;
Aboriginal Affairs; Lands
11th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

I am writing as Chairman of the Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA); an alliance comprising of 10 regional Cities and Shires and representing half of the regional population of WA. RCAWA is a peak body, advocating for strategic planning for growth and investment in regional capitals.

Each of the capitals are considered to have high capability and prospects, positioning them as ideal locations in which to focus the attention of the government and industry to grow both the population base and economy of the state.

We believe that as a collaborative group we provide a unified voice for strategic commonalities on social and economic issues and a consistent regional investment strategy that supports sustainable regional growth.

A number of issues facing RCAWA members fall within your portfolio and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at one of our Bi-Monthly meetings. To date we have met with numerous DG's and Ministers including:

- David Templeman; Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
- Alannah MacTiernan; Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Minister assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
- Rita Saffioti; Minister for Transport; Planning
- Mick Murray; Minister for Seniors and Ageing; volunteering; Sport and Recreation

These meetings have been well received by the Alliance and the Ministers, with the Ministers being able to disseminate important portfolio information and the members having the opportunity to advocate for the Alliance and ask questions.

The RCAWA meetings for 2019 are as follows:

- 11 April 2019 10.30am – 12.30pm: Perth
- 13 June 2019 10.30am – 12.30pm: City of Karratha
- 1 August 2019 10.30am – 12.30pm: Perth
- 10 October 2019 10.30am – 12.30pm: Perth

We would very much welcome your attendance at one of these meetings. If you would like to take up this invitation could you please have your appointment secretary contact Paul Rosair, the Executive Officer for RCAWA to arrange a suitable time.
PH 0419930467 or email paul@naja.com.au

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Long', written in a cursive style.

Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Hon. David Kelly, MLA
Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry;
Innovation and ICT; Science
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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- Rita Saffioti; Minister for Transport; Planning
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PH 0419930467 or email paul@naja.com.au

Yours faithfully

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Our Ref: OCR179611
Enquiries: Paul Rosair paul@naja.com.au

Hon. Francis Logan, MLA
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Hon. John Quigley, MLA
Attorney General; Minister for Commerce
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Hon. Paul Papalia, MLA
Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small
Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and
Multicultural Interests
10th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Hon. Peter Tinley, MLA
Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues
Youth; Asian Engagement
7th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Our Ref: OCR179611
Enquiries: Paul Rosair paul@naja.com.au

Hon. Roger Cook, MLA
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health;
Mental Health
13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Hon. Simone McGurk, MLA
Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests;
Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence;
Community Services
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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Minister for Education and Training
13th Floor, Dumas House
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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Hon. William Johnston, MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy;
Industrial Relations
9th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

RE: Regional Capitals Alliance of Western Australia (RCAWA)

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Peter Long
Chair

12 March 2019

Enquiries: Paul Rosair:
Executive Officer RCAWA
0419930467

Melissa Northcott
4 Hansen Road
Seville Grove WA 6112

Dear Melissa

RE: MACWA Awards

The Regional Capitals Alliance WA (RCAWA) is once again proud to sponsor the West Australian community awards for the Most Accessible Community in WA (MACWA). These awards are for the Local Governments who best demonstrate their awareness of creating a universal-access environment.

It gives me great pleasure to request you to be part of the judging panel for this award. The Judging Panel will consider the following criteria:

- Improve the accessibility of Council infrastructure and public open space;
- Inclusive communication technology and information initiatives;
- Accessible and inclusive Council services, programs and events;
- Exercises leadership and influences community attitudes and perceptions.

Nominations considered under the categories of:

- Metro Council
- Regional City
- Regional Shire/Town

Initiatives that go above and beyond the statutory obligations (Disability Access and Inclusion Plans, Business Council of Australia etc.) will be highly regarded. Nominations are now open and close on 1 July 2018 and you will be forwarded received submissions shortly thereafter. These awards will be presented at the WALGA AGM on 7th August 2018. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Paul Rosair on behalf of Peter Long
Mayor – City of Karratha
Chairman RCAWA

Enquiries: Paul Rosair:
Executive Officer RCAWA
0419930467

Julie Waylen
Chairperson National Disability Service
PO BOX 184
Northbridge 6865

Dear Julie

RE: MACWA Awards

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Paul Rosair on behalf of Peter Long
Mayor – City of Karratha
Chairman RCAWA

Enquiries: Paul Rosair:
Executive Officer RCAWA
0419930467

Bruce Langoulant
Chairperson Disability Services Board
PO Box 214
Donnybrook 6239

Dear Bruce

RE: MACWA Awards

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Paul Rosair on behalf of Peter Long
Mayor – City of Karratha
Chairman RCAWA

6 TREASURER’S REPORT MARCH 2019

Date of Report:	31 March 2019
Report Author:	Mayor – City of Greater Geraldton
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	1. Balance Sheet as at 31st of March 2019 2. Budgeted Profit & Loss for the period ending 31 03 19

Purpose

The following notes are provided as an explanation to the attached statements:

1. Executive Support: NAJA invoice processed in March for services in February.
2. No Membership Fees outstanding as at 31 March 2019.

RCAWA Resolution

- 1. That the Board receive and note the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending 31 March 2019 and the accompanying financial statements.**
- 2. Prepare 19/20 Budget report for the July RCAWA meeting**
- 3. Note that the intent is for memberships to be 15K**

MOVED: Harold Tracey - Shire President Shire of Broome

SECONDED: Dennis Wellington - Mayor City of Albany

CARRIED

WA Regional Capitals Alliance Inc
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2019

	<u>Mar 31, 19</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
WARCA Cheque Account	266.03
WARCA Savings Account	79,414.73
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>79,680.76</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>79,680.76</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>79,680.76</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Tax Payable	-1,885.67
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-1,885.67</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-1,885.67</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-1,885.67</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>81,566.43</u>
EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity	136,570.00
Retained Earnings	-111,755.95
Net Income	56,752.38
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>81,566.43</u>

WA Regional Capitals Alliance Inc
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 2018 through March 2019

	<u>Jul 18 - Mar 19</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Interest received	242.58	100.00	142.58
Membership Fee 2018/19	117,000.00	117,000.00	0.00
Total Income	<u>117,242.58</u>	<u>117,100.00</u>	<u>142.58</u>
Gross Profit	117,242.58	117,100.00	142.58
Expense			
Accountancy fees	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00
Audit fees	400.00		
Executive Support	57,941.12	85,909.00	-27,967.88
General expenses	69.59		
Meetings & Functions	1,709.10	2,000.00	-290.90
Miscellaneous/ Sundry	97.66		
Printing and stationery	272.73		
Projects	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00
Travelling expenses	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00
Total Expense	<u>60,490.20</u>	<u>117,009.00</u>	<u>-56,518.80</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>56,752.38</u>	<u>91.00</u>	<u>56,661.38</u>
Net Income	<u><u>56,752.38</u></u>	<u><u>91.00</u></u>	<u><u>56,661.38</u></u>

7 FORMAL PRESENTATIONS

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	Nil

Purpose:

The Alliance to receive presentations from:

- **Mike Rowe and Germaine Larcombe:** Director General and Director Regulatory Capability, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and
- **Julie DeJong,** Executive Director – Strategic Business Innovation, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)
- **Ralph Addis and Niegel Grazia:** Director General and Deputy Director General: Industry & Economic Development from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

Background:

Leading up to this meeting, Alliance members were canvassed about issues pertinent to the portfolios of the presenters: a consolidated list is provided in the discussion and has been forwarded to the relevant presenters as appropriate.

Discussion:

11.30 am presentation

- **Ralph Addis and Niegel Grazia** – Director General and Deputy Director General: Industry & Economic Development from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

Topics (as per email sent to Ralph Addis):

- Provide a short overview of the Alliance (Strategic Plan attached) and ask the Director General and Executive Director to provide an overview of current issues, projects and priorities facing his portfolio.
- In the 2018-19 Stage Budget (Page 189) there is a budget allocation of \$4.5m for Regional Centres Development Plans – Stage 2. This was carried forward from the 2017-18 budget. The Alliance would like clarity around the purpose and status of this fund and the process for applying.
- Regional Investment Pipeline/R4R Future: Seeking information on how RCAWA and its members can work with the State Government to partner on strategic regional projects. Currently the process to work collaboratively with the Government on key projects is a little unclear. The Alliance will outline its Regional Investment Framework (attached) and a suggested implementation strategy and associated fund.

- Similarly, the Alliance is looking at opportunities to develop bids for accessing the Innovation Fund to Drive Regional Jobs (a \$16.7 million fund over four years that will support and accelerate new and emerging businesses to diversify the Western Australian economy and create new WA jobs and industries). The Alliance would like clarification and an update on this fund.
- Regional Development Commissions - the Alliance would like an update on any proposed structural changes likely in the short to medium term and if so, what impact this may have on Local Government.

1 pm presentation

Mike Rowe and Germaine Larcombe: Director General and Director Regulatory Capability, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and **Julie DeJong**, Executive Director – Strategic Business Innovation, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)

Topics (as per email sent to Mike Rowe):

- Provide a short overview of the Alliance (Strategic Plan attached) and ask the Director General to provide an overview of current issues, projects and priorities facing his portfolio.
- Discuss the “Streamline WA’ Project and how the Alliance can be involved – please see below links for further information

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2018/12/Streamline-WA-Making-it-easier-to-do-business-in-Western-Australia.aspx>

<https://cciwa.com/about-us/media-statements/streamline-wa-will-make-it-easier-for-business-to>

- Led by Mike Archer – Discuss Legacy contaminated waste facilities and potential consequences for Local Governments and in particular Alliance Members.
- Led by Andrew Sharpe - Regional Industrial Land Development Issue. If a current priority water catchment area/s (ie P2 catchment) has been identified in close proximity to an industrial development precinct and subsequently additional catchment areas are identified in other zones that will future proof a local government area, is it possible that the catchment area in close proximity to the industrial zone could be removed. (This question is asked in the context of regional industrial land developments and the proposal to develop the Albany Motorsports Park, however has wider implications for other Alliance members).

Link to Strategic Directions:

Advocacy and policy influence
Representation

Budget Implications:

nil

Recommendation:

That the alliance confirms the issues to be discussed during the presentations.

8 EXECUTIVE OFFICER BI MONTHLY REPORT

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s):	Executive Officer Bi-Monthly Report – Feb - Mar 2019

Purpose:

To update RCAWA on the Executive Officer services provided for the period February 2019 to March 2019.

Background:

The Executive Officer has been engaged for 24 months and has had further meetings with alliance members (one-on-one and as a group) and key government, industry and political stakeholders. This report provides information about the services provided under the following main headings:

- Summary of bi-monthly actions
- Stakeholder engagement
- Issues and Opportunities
- Time Allocation

Discussion:

As required.

Link to Strategic Directions:

Advocacy and policy Influence
Partnership and collaboration
Representation

Budget Implications:

As per 2018/19 approved RCAWA budget.

RCAWA Resolution

That the information be received.

MOVED: Chris Adams - CEO City of Karratha

SECONDED: Grant Henley - Mayor City of Busselton

CARRIED

Bi-Monthly Update

RCAWA Executive Officer Services

Prepared for WA Regional Capitals Alliance

February 2019 – March 2019



Business Consulting Services

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Section 1: Summary of Bi-Monthly Actions

I have been performing the Executive Officer role for over 24 months. Over the past 2 months I have had further meetings with Alliance members (one-on-one and as a group) and key government, industry and political stakeholders. On behalf of the group, I have been working on the following:

- Investment Framework Strategy – continuing to promote the Alliance’s stance on regional investment. Have delivered frameworks to numerous stakeholders, as per Stakeholder Engagement Report, with the aim of influencing government to incorporate IFS into government planning. Also reviewing and modifying the framework to align with Busselton’s implementation strategy approach.
- As a consequence of the February Tourism Roundtable meeting, I have been liaising with Tourism WA and RTO staff to better collaborate with the Tourism Industry and look at better ways to inform and influence their Agenda. Refer Agenda Item.
- Modernising the WA Planning System: Identified key issues contained within the RCAWA submission document and collated a summary document that highlights the key initiatives that RCAWA members would like to see as part of this reform process. See Other Business Agenda Item.
- Review of Local Government Act 1995 – As an ongoing activity, I continue to liaise and advocate with relevant government and industry bodies regarding the Local Government Act Review (scheduled meeting with Director General Duncan Ord for 12th April 2019) reiterating the agreed upon four principles (as per meeting 12/4/18).
- Strategic Plan Implementation Strategy – continuing to work on Action Plan 2018, adopted at the meeting in February 2018, and continuing work on refreshing the 2018 Action Plan for 2019.
- Communications Plan – continuing to work on progressing actions from the plan, adopted at the meeting in December 2017, and continuing work on refreshing the 2018 Communications Plan for 2019.
- Actions and Business Arising - Updating all Actions and Business Arising from RCAWA. This report is tabled as an agenda item in this and future meetings, reflecting updates as they occur. Letters written as part of the Action Plan have been reviewed by appropriate Alliance members/Secretariat and will also be tabled as ‘correspondence out’ in this and future meetings.
- MACWA Awards – 2019 awards process has commenced, and advertising material sent to all relevant stakeholders. Refer to Agenda item this meeting.
- Election Pitch flyer – Promoting pitch through all network channels and secured distribution to all Federal Ministers via Steve Irons, Minister assisting the Prime Minister at a recent meeting.
- LGIS workers compensation – Still in discussions with Johnathon Seth (CEO of LGIS) and Jordan Reid to further negotiate workers compensation premiums for the Alliance. They may be approaching Alliance Councils to negotiate premiums individually which may compromise the bargaining power of the Alliance. An update will be provided under general business at today’s meeting.
- A) Service Priority Review B) Public Library System C) Review of Heritage Act 1990 D) Local Government Act – watching brief and liaison with appropriate stakeholders as required.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Regular meetings with relevant stakeholders as per Section 3.



Section 2: Details of Bi-Monthly Actions

KEY OBJECTIVES		OVERVIEW OF MONTHLY ACTIONS
ADVOCACY & POLICY INFLUENCE	Engagement with Relevant Political Leaders, Industry and Senior Government Executive	Refer Section 3
	Preparation of Submissions and Delegations	<p>Currently working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Federal Election Alliance strategy and Pitch • Planning Institute of Australia - National Settlements Strategy • Planning Reform • Energy Strategy • Study into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments • Most Accessible Community in Western Australia (MACWA) • Service Priority Review • Investment Framework and Implementation Strategy • Local Government Act Review • Heritage Act Review • Inquiry into the Indicators of, and Impact of Regional Inequality in Australia, attendance at recent hearing.
	Advocacy on Key Issues	<p>Continuing to contact relevant stakeholders to further the work being done by RCAWA on all key issues.</p> <p>Secured the attendance of the following at upcoming meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA (<i>Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement</i>) – 1st July and 1st August 2019 Alliance Meeting • Hon Bill Johnston MLA (<i>Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy, Industrial Relations</i>) Invitation accepted – 1st August 2019 Alliance Meeting • Hon Dave Kelly BA MLA (<i>Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science</i>) Invitation accepted – 10th October 2019 Alliance Meeting • Ralph Addis (<i>Director General Primary Industries and Regional Development</i>) Invitation accepted – 11th April 2019 Alliance Meeting. • Mike Rowe (<i>DG Department of Water</i>) Invitation accepted – 11th April 2019 Alliance Meeting. • Hon. Ben Wyatt (<i>Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy; Aboriginal Affairs</i>) to attend meeting in new year. Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • Nick Sloan (<i>CEO WALGA</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed



KEY OBJECTIVES		OVERVIEW OF MONTHLY ACTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Craigie (<i>President WALGA</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • Hon Paul Papalia (<i>Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • Mark Webb (<i>Director General - Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed, Tentative for June Meeting as he will be in Karratha at that time. • Zaeen Khan (<i>Director – Public Utilities Office</i>). Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • LandCorp: George McCullagh (<i>Chairman – LandCorp</i>) Frank Marra (<i>CEO LandCorp</i>) Tentative June Meeting in Karratha. • Peter Yu (<i>Board Member of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • Dean Blakemore (<i>WA Building Better Regions Fund</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • WALGA Conference and AGM • Rebecca Brown (<i>Director General of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed • Brodie Carr (<i>Tourism Western Australia Managing Director</i>) Invitation accepted - Date to be confirmed
ADVOCACY & POLICY INFLUENCE	Development of Policy Position Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed submission to a Green Paper on Modernising Western Australia’s planning system. Now participating in Reform Projects. • On behalf of the Alliance to the Senate Economics References Committee - Inquiry into the Indicators of, and Impact of Regional Inequality in Australia, requested attendance at a hearing and subsequently attended Panel session in Perth.
PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION	Insurance Services – Workers Compensation	Continuing to negotiate with LGIS. Met with Jonathon Seth and Jordan Reid on 22/1/19 to further negotiate workers compensation premiums.
	Development of <i>WA Regional Capitals Platform</i>	In the 2018-19 Stage Budget (Page 189) there is a budget allocation of \$4.5m for Regional Centres Development Plans – Stage 2. This was carried forward from the 2017-18 budget. There is little clarity around the purpose of this fund and the process for applying. With the Regional Investment Framework / Growth Planning paper now complete. The EO is looking at how this budget allocation may be best applied considering the RCAWA adopted investment framework. Question to Ralph Addis to be tabled today.



KEY OBJECTIVES		OVERVIEW OF MONTHLY ACTIONS
	Development of Bids	Similarly, the EO is looking at opportunities to develop bids for accessing the Innovation Fund to Drive Regional Jobs (<i>a \$16.7 million fund over four years that will support and accelerate new and emerging businesses to diversify the Western Australian economy and create new WA jobs and industries</i>). Raise today with Ralph.
	Federal Government – City Deals and Smart Cities	Letter written to Premier of WA notifying him of the Alliance Position and seeking the State’s support to progress the Alliance’s nomination to the next stage. Letter of reply received. Another letter has been sent seeking a meeting.
GOVERNANCE	Establishment of Not-For-Profit Inc. Association	13 th December 2018: Annual General Meeting was held for election of new office bearers and tabling of Annual Report. Publishable Annual Report completed (Refer Agenda item.
	Communications Support	EO, Secretary and EA are continuing to implement actions contained within the Communications Plan and are now refreshing for 2019.
	Development of Strategic Plan	Continuing to implement the 2018 Action Plan developed from the Strategic Plan. Commencement of review to form the 2019 Action Plan.
	Meetings and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCAWA CEO teleconference 4 December 2018 • RCAWA Alliance Meeting (Perth) 12 December 2018 • AGM (Perth) – 17 December 2018 • RCAWA CEO teleconference 30 January 2018

Section 3: Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder representatives	Meeting Date	Key Meeting Outcomes
Graeme Gammie <i>(Executive Director Planning Reform DPL&H)</i>	4 th February 2019	Discussed Planning Reform white paper update and future RCAWA involvement.
Evan Jones <i>(Principal Responsive Environments)</i>	4 th February 2019	Evan was the consultant to government and the architect of the Planning Reform green paper. Provided an insight into the nuances surrounding the process and highlighted opportunities for RCAWA in white paper.
John Zandler <i>(Executive Pacifica Pty Ltd)</i>	5 February 2019	Hotel Development opportunities and Leasing and Land Tenure issues
Greg Cash and David Jones <i>(Executive Director Department of Communities (Housing))</i>	5 February 2019 12 February 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion about RAWWA. Urban



Stakeholder representatives	Meeting Date	Key Meeting Outcomes
		renewal opportunities within Alliance members jurisdictions.
Kym Francesconi (Partnerships Manager Tourism WA)	13 February 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion regarding better ways for the Alliance and Tourism WA and RTOs to better collaborate.
Sam Mastrolembo (CEO Broome Shire)	14 February 2019	RCAWA general discussion around Election Pitch and actions follow up.
Mark Webb (Director General - Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions)	14 February 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion regarding portfolio matters. Invitation accepted to attend a RCAWA meeting.
Rachel Sweeney (Executive Officer – RCA)	19 February 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion regarding portfolio matters. See RCA Update.
Brendan Kelly (Deputy Mayor City of Bunbury) Mal Osborne (CEO City of Bunbury)	20 th February 2019	MACWA Awards 2019. Structure, Advertising and Support arrangements.
Andrew Sharpe (CEO City of Albany)	21 st February 2019	Discussed Benchmarking Proposal (See agenda item), FESA Centre of Excellence and City Deals.
Kym Francesconi (Partnerships Manager Tourism WA)	22 nd February 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion about engagement opportunities with RCAWA and RTO's. Refer Agenda Item.
Peter Long (Chair RCAWA) Chris Adams (Secretary RCAWA)	26 th February 2019	General RCAWA Matters including Election Pitch and Administrative support matters.
Brett Sabien (A/Director Investment Management Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development)	26 th February 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion. Update on R4R status, Grant opportunities and Departmental Reform.
Mike Archer (CEO City of Busselton)	5 th March 2019	General RCA matters and developing the implementation strategy and model for the Alliance Investment framework. Also discussed legacy Waste facilities issue.
Mal Osborne and Executive Leadership Team (City of Bunbury)	5 th May 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion regarding Tourism, Federal Election Pitch, Planning Reform and MACWA awards.
Ryan Campbell (Community Partnership Officer, Disabilities and Seniors – City of Bunbury)	5 th March 2019	MACWA Awards 2019 Review and Planning
Tony Brown (Executive Director WALGA)	5 th March 2019	MACWA Awards 2019 Commitment



Stakeholder representatives	Meeting Date	Key Meeting Outcomes
Adam Maskew <i>(Regional Manager South West - Department Water and Environmental Regulation)</i>	6 th March 2019	Waste Facility Legacy Contamination
Hon. Francis (Fran) Michael Logan MLA <i>(BA (Hons) Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services)</i>	6 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion Meeting invitation- Rural Fire Division Bush Fire Centre of Excellence Location Crown Land Fire Risk Mitigation
Hon. Steve Irons MP <i>(Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister)</i>	7 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion Election Pitch Flyer Priorities and Distribution Meeting invitation
Catherine Marriott <i>(Broome Shire Councillor, Northern Australia CRC Board Member)</i>	7 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion including Regional Investment Framework, Land tenure Policy Framework.
Harold Tracey <i>(Mayor Shire of Broome)</i> Sam Mastrolembo <i>(CEO Shire of Broome)</i>	13 th March 2019	RCAWA General matters, election pitch flyer and meeting agenda items
Cr Chris Mitchell <i>(Shire of Broome)</i>	13 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion
Matt Darcy <i>(Executive Director Lands, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)</i>	14 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion including Regional Investment Framework, Land tenure Policy Framework. Meeting Invitation.
Hon Peter Ryan and Panel <i>(Chair of the Strategic Regional Growth Panel – Select Committee on Regional Development and De-Centralisation)</i>	15 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and Strategic discussion. Federal election pitch and flyers distributed to panel members. Overview and learnings from R4R program. Regional Investment Framework and Implementation model. Land tenure policy paper.
Marcus Falconer and Catrin Alsop <i>(CEOs RTO's, Golden Outback and Australian South West)</i>	19 th March 2019	RCAWA Overview and general discussion about engagement opportunities with RCAWA and RTO's. Refer Agenda Item.
RCAWA Members	Regularly	General discussions around RCAWA issues

**Section 5: Issues and Opportunities**

Overview of Issue/Opportunity	Update
Federal Election	Take advantage of the opportunity for the Alliance to put its profile and agenda to both sides of politics. Federal Election Pitch flyer completed and promoted accordingly. Refer Other Business Agenda item at today's meeting.
Workers compensation Premiums (LGIS)	Following on from the November meeting, Paul met with Johnathon Seth (LGIS) on 22 nd January with the aim of negotiating lower premiums for workers compensation insurance. LGIS are considering what, if any, concessions they can offer the group. EO will follow up. Refer General Business at today's meeting.
Marketing and Communications	Continuing to implement activities identified on the 2018 Action Plan. Revisiting works agenda for 2019 accordingly.
Strategic Planning	Continuing to implement activities identified on the 2018 Strategic Plan. Revisiting works agenda for 2019 accordingly.
Administrative Support	New administrative arrangements now in place from February 2019 meeting onwards.
Regionalising Government Services	<p>A letter has been prepared seeking membership to Infrastructure WA, an independent advisory body that will provide expert advice to Government on the infrastructure needs and priorities to support WA's growth. EO will monitor this initiative to ensure the Alliance is informed about any progress and opportunities to pursue their infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Continuing to participate in State Government's Service Priority review by regular contact to keep abreast of the review and monitor opportunities to participate further.</p>

Time allocation summary

Allocated total annual hrs	Total hrs billed	YTD hrs
May 2018 – April 2019 400 hrs	Total hours for February 2019 – March 2019 70 hrs. billed (70 ½ hrs. actual)	365 hrs billed (373 hrs actual)

9 RCA UPDATE

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	Nil

Purpose:

To update RCAWA members on RCA matters

Discussion:

From the Mayor, Grant Henley – City of Busselton, WA Board Representative

Key Issues raised / discussed at a National Board level include:

- Regional / City Deals - request for \$1bn over 4 years with at least 2 per year. Possibility of RCA being part of recommendation (overcoming parochialism is required)
- Regional Airport Funding - request for dedicated fund (\$100m pa) for upkeep of airport infrastructure under regional LG control. Liaise with RAA to come up with a realistic figure. Already funding for 'remote' runways needed for emergency services.
- Regional Transport Infrastructure funding - road, rail, air to drive regional economies
- Federal Labour Government commitment if elected to an ongoing Regional Development funding programme (although its likely to be rebadged)
- Regional Migration Strategy (recently announced)
- Advocacy for a national arts and cultural fund for capital and refurbishment works on theatres / performing Arts centres covered in position paper
- High level of advocacy/representations on behalf of LG's nationally on RCA with all sides of politics with pending Federal election

The Executive Officer also met with Rachael Sweeney (RAC Australia Executive Officer) to provide an update of RCAWA and receive an update on RCA items and issues.

Matters discussed were as follows:

- RCAWA Federal Election Pitch (copy of flyer sent to Rachael)
- EO's catchup with Steve Irons: Minister Assisting the prime Minister
- National Settlement strategy
- Skilled Migration – designated area migration agreements and in particular Kalgoorlie and Karratha agreements
- FBT and taxation allowances

- Regional Deals (\$2B over 4 years, although need to clarify in view of Mayor’s comment of \$1B above) Looking for another 10 Regional deals.
- Regional City airports - \$100m fund for infrastructure and maintenance
- Roads
- Mobile network blackspots
- Faster rail
- BBRF and Regional Growth Fund
- Tourism and the arts fund

Link to Strategic Directions:

Partnership and collaboration

Budget Implications:

Nil

RCAWA Resolution

- 1. That the information be received.**
- 2. Post-election outcome, EO to write to the successful parties congratulating them and introducing RCAWA and how we align to election commitments.**

MOVED: John Bowler - Mayor City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

SECONDED: Victoria Brown - Shire President Shire of Esperance

CARRIED

10 RCAWA BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	City of Albany
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	Nil

Purpose:

To collectively develop and deliver a simple Benchmarking Framework that will provide meaningful information that can be used to inform and improve the performance of all participants

Background:

Research has proven that benchmarking with similar entities provides a sound basis for organisational learning and improvement, both in the public and private sector. Around four years ago Local Governments in WA were invited to take part in the Australasian LG Performance Excellence Program and a number of Local Governments including Alliance members signed up.

Since this time the number of metrics and reporting requirements have increased significantly and the City of Albany along with a number of other regional LG's have decided not to continue based on the cost of the program, resourcing required to provide information and the complexity of the resulting reports.

This discussion paper provides a much simpler and more focussed benchmarking option for members of the Regional Capitals Alliance as it will be developed and delivered by Alliance Members for Alliance Members.

Discussion:

Recommended Approach:

The City of Albany has recently developed a Corporate Scorecard which includes criteria for Corporate Benchmarking. They have attached a draft to help participants to collectively consider the required metrics for this program along with the basis for comparison. Once these are agreed the program would simply involve each participant completing an Excel Spreadsheet at an agreed time annually which would be collated and validated by the City of Albany. The City would then prepare a report in the agreed format for all participants and facilitate a workshop to review results and agree improvements for the following year.

Milestone Table

Milestone	Expected Hours
Program Development	
Prepare and circulate recommended format based on the City of Albany Corporate Scorecard	10
Prepare for and attend alliance meeting to agree the benchmarking metrics, comparison basis and reporting requirements	20
Design and share an Alliance excel spreadsheet based on discussions, address feedback and gain final sign off from all participants	30
TOTAL	60
Annual Collation and Reporting	
Collate and validate information from each participant	40
Prepare reports and distribute to participants	40
Prepare presentation for Alliance meeting	10
Present results at Alliance meeting and agree any improvements to be included for the following year	10
Provide ongoing mentoring support to participants on request and answer any queries in a timely manner	20
TOTAL PER ANNUM	120

Resourcing:

If approved the Benchmarking Framework program would be co-ordinated by Stephen Grimmer, Facilitator Strategy and Improvement for the City of Albany. Stephen has worked for the City of Albany for 6 years in this role after acting as Executive Director – Works and Services for a year in 2012.

Before joining the City, he worked as a Business Consultant for 17 years and has extensive experience in benchmarking and performance improvement in a number of industries. Stephen recently coordinated the establishment of the highly regarded Great Southern Peer Support Program for Integrated Planning and Reporting which is about to be rolled out across the State.

Expected Cost:

Based on the Milestone Table above initial work required to develop the program will take around 60 hours. The annual collation and reporting of information will take around 120 hours per year.

Based on a cost recovery rate of \$110 per hour this equates to \$6,600 for set up and \$13,200 per annum to administer the program. Over 3 years the total cost recovery would equate to \$46,200 or \$15,400 per annum.

The City of Albany is happy to offer this service at \$1500 per participant per year for the next 3 years excluding GST if all 10 regional capitals sign up to the program.

Link to strategic Direction:

Partnership and collaboration

RCAWA Resolution

1. **EO to distribute data to members**
2. **Lay item on table until next meeting**

MOVED: Victoria Brown - Shire President Shire of Esperance

SECONDED: Harold Tracey - Shire President Shire of Broome

CARRIED

11 PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION STUDY INTO REMOTE AREA TAX CONCESSIONS AND PAYMENTS

Date of Report:	7 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	1. Info page 2. Remote Tax Issue Paper

Purpose:

Alliance members to develop a joint submission approach to the Productivity Commission Study into remote area tax concessions and payments

Background:

The Federal Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg, has requested that the Productivity Commission undertake a study into the zone tax offset (ZTO) and related remote area tax concessions and payments. The ZTO is an income tax rebate available to residents of particular areas in Australia, designated Zone A, Zone B and special areas within each zone. The ZTO provides assistance to taxpayers in remote areas in recognition of the higher living costs they incur. The areas in WA where the ZTO applies can be found at:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/Australian-zone-list/?anchor=wa#w>

The Productivity Commission is asked to determine the appropriate ongoing form and function of the ZTO, Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) remote area concessions, and Remote Area Allowance. Specifically, it has been tasked to:

- examine the operation of the zone tax offset and FBT remote area concessions, including the levels of assistance provided, indexation and the boundaries of eligible areas and prescribed zones;
- examine the economic and employment impacts of the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and Remote Area Allowance, including the effect of applying indexation, in regional Australia;
- examine the operation of the Remote Area Allowance, which extends the benefits of the zone tax offset to income support recipients in remote zones;
- consider whether the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and the Remote Area Allowance are delivering on their policy objectives and whether those objectives remain appropriate in a contemporary Australia;
- consider if businesses in remote areas should be provided with similar support;
- consider if there are alternative mechanisms to better provide this support to Australians residing in specified geographic areas.

Further detail on the Study can be found at:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/remote-tax>

Discussion:

Attraction and retention of staff and workers into regional WA has been a significant issue facing many of the Alliance members.

The recently developed Federal election pitch identified employment as a key issue for ensuring growth. Key to that pitch was incentivising workers to move to regional areas including support for skilled migration, reforming FBT guidelines and developing a National Settlement strategy enhancing, “Remote area tax concessions and payments” would be another avenue to stimulate employment in regional WA. As such it would seem prudent for the Alliance to make a submission to this study.

Alliance members should highlight which areas the Productivity Commission has been tasked to do so that the submission should be tightly focused on those areas in question.

Initial submissions are due by Monday 29 April 2019. Submissions will also be sought upon the release of a draft report, which will be released in late August 2019. The RCAWA EO has requested a 2-3 week extension on the submission date and is waiting to hear if that is a possibility.

Link to Strategic Directions:

Advocacy and policy influence

Budget Implications:

Nil

RCAWA Resolution

That the Executive Officer, in consultation with RCAWA members, prepare a brief submission to the Productivity Commission

MOVED: Grant Henley - Mayor City of Busselton

SECONDED: John Bowler - Mayor City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

CARRIED

INFOPAGE



To: Chief Executive Officer

From: Dana Mason, Policy Manager,
Economics

Organisation: Regional Local **Date:** 12 February 2019
Governments

Pages: 1

Subject: Study into Remote Area Tax **Priority:** Medium
Concessions and Payments

IN BRIEF:

Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Productivity Commission undertaking a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments. The review is in response to concerns that the current remote tax assistance has not kept pace with Australia's needs.• The study will involve a comprehensive review of the tax assistance and provide recommendations on its appropriate form and function into the future.• WALGA is seeking Local Government feedback on the study terms of reference by 29 March 2019 to help inform a submission.
Action Required	Provide advice to WALGA.

The Treasurer the Hon Josh Frydenberg, has requested that the Productivity Commission undertake a study into the zone tax offset (ZTO) and related remote area tax concessions and payments. The ZTO is an income tax rebate available to residents of particular areas in Australia, designated Zone A, Zone B and special areas within each zone. The ZTO provides assistance to taxpayers in remote areas in recognition of the higher living costs they incur. The areas in WA where the ZTO applies can be found at: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/Australian-zone-list/?anchor=wa#walga>

The Productivity Commission is asked to determine the appropriate ongoing form and function of the ZTO, Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) remote area concessions, and Remote Area Allowance. Specifically, it has been tasked to:

- examine the operation of the zone tax offset and FBT remote area concessions, including the levels of assistance provided, indexation and the boundaries of eligible areas and prescribed zones;
- examine the economic and employment impacts of the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and Remote Area Allowance, including the effect of applying indexation, in regional Australia;
- examine the operation of the Remote Area Allowance, which extends the benefits of the zone tax offset to income support recipients in remote zones;
- consider whether the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and the Remote Area Allowance are delivering on their policy objectives and whether those objectives remain appropriate in a contemporary Australia;
- consider if businesses in remote areas should be provided with similar support; and
- consider if there are alternative mechanisms to better provide this support to Australians residing in specified geographic areas.

Further detail on the Study can be found at: <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/remote-tax>. An Issues Paper will also be released in March and available on the Productivity Commission's website.

WALGA is seeking feedback from Local Governments in relation to the terms of reference outlined above to inform the development of its submission. **Please provide comments to Dana Mason, Policy Manager – Economics, on dmason@walga.asn.au by Friday 29 March.**



Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments

Productivity Commission
Issues Paper

March 2019

The Commission has released this issues paper to assist individuals and organisations to prepare submissions.

It contains and outlines:

- the scope of the study
- the Commission's procedures
- matters about which the Commission is seeking comment and information
- how to make a submission.

The Issues Paper

The Commission has released this issues paper to assist individuals and organisations to prepare submissions to the study. It contains and outlines:

- the scope of the study
- the Commission's procedures
- matters about which the Commission is seeking comment and information
- how to make a submission.

Participants should not feel that they are restricted to comment only on matters raised in the issues paper. The Commission wishes to receive information and comment on issues which participants consider relevant to the study's terms of reference.

Key study dates

Receipt of terms of reference	28 November 2018
Study commenced	February 2019
Due date for submissions	29 April 2019
Release of draft report	Late August 2019
Final report released	February 2020

Submissions can be lodged

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The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long term interest of the Australian community.

The Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

Further information on the Productivity Commission can be obtained from the Commission's website (www.pc.gov.au).

Terms of reference

Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments

I, Josh Frydenberg, Treasurer, pursuant to Parts 2 and 4 of the Productivity Commission Act 1998, hereby request that the Productivity Commission undertake a study into the zone tax offset and related remote area tax concessions and payments.

Background

The Australian Government provides assistance to Australians who reside in specified geographic areas through the zone tax offset, the fringe benefits tax (FBT) remote area concessions and the Remote Area Allowance.

The eligible zones for the zone tax offset were originally established in 1945 and were based on exposure to uncongenial climatic conditions, isolation or a relatively high cost of living. The zones still largely reflect the original design in 1945, notwithstanding the demographic and infrastructure changes that have occurred in regional Australia in recent decades. The areas eligible for FBT remote area concessions are partly determined by reference to the zone tax offset boundaries, and the Remote Area Allowance is available to recipients of Australian Government income support payments who live in specified zone tax offset areas.

There have been concerns that the design of these mechanisms has not evolved to adequately reflect varying degrees of demographic, infrastructure and cost-of-living change occurring in Australia.

Scope of the report

The Productivity Commission is asked to determine the appropriate ongoing form and function of the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and Remote Area Allowance.

In conducting this review, the Productivity Commission is to:

- examine the operation of the zone tax offset and FBT remote area concessions, including the levels of assistance provided, indexation and the boundaries of eligible areas and prescribed zones
- examine the economic and employment impacts of the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and Remote Area Allowance, including the effect of applying indexation, in regional Australia
- examine the operation of the Remote Area Allowance, which extends the benefits of the zone tax offset to income support recipients in remote zones

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- consider whether the zone tax offset, FBT remote area concessions, and the Remote Area Allowance are delivering on their policy objectives and whether those objectives remain appropriate in a contemporary Australia
 - consider if businesses in remote areas should be provided with similar support
 - consider if there are alternative mechanisms to better provide this support to Australians residing in specified geographic areas.

Process

The Productivity Commission is to undertake an appropriate public consultation process. This will include inviting public submissions in response to an issues paper and draft report. It will also involve consultation and meetings in regional communities.

The Productivity Commission is to commence this work in February 2019. A final report with recommendations should be provided to the Government within 12 months of commencement.

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer

[Received 28 November 2018]

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1 What is this study about?

This study focuses on three longstanding measures that provide support to individuals and businesses in remote areas, namely the:

- zone tax offset (ZTO)
- fringe benefits tax (FBT) remote area concessions
- Remote Area Allowance (RAA).

There have been concerns within the community that these measures have failed to keep pace with demographic, cost of living and infrastructure changes in Australia. In response to these concerns, the Australian Government has asked the Productivity Commission to evaluate these measures' objectives, design, operation and effects, and to consider alternatives to them. Box 1 outlines how you can contribute to our study.

The Commission will meet with interested parties, including in regional and remote Australia, during the course of the study. There will be further opportunity to make submissions to the study following the release of the draft report in late August (figure 1).

Box 1 How you can contribute

The Commission is seeking input from affected individuals, communities and businesses. We want to hear your views on the rationale for these schemes, what is working well (or not so well), and what could be improved.

We have released this issues paper to assist you in preparing a submission to this study. It sets out some of the issues and questions the Commission has identified as relevant at this early stage of the study. You do not need to comment on every issue raised in this paper and you are free to raise any other issues or ideas that are relevant to the terms of reference.

Where you identify problems with the system, you should provide some indication of the nature, size and scope of the problems, why change is needed and ways the system might be improved. Where possible, you should support your views with data and other evidence.

Submissions are due by 29 April 2019.

You can also make a brief comment through the Commission's website. We will not treat comments as formal submissions, but may use them to inform our report. Attachment A provides further details on how you can make a submission or brief comment.

Figure 1 Study process



2 Overview and evolution of current arrangements

Post-war origins of remote area support

In 1945, the Australian Government introduced income tax deductions for inhabitants of remote areas. The main justification was to compensate people for the relatively high living costs, isolation and uncongenial climate in remote Australia (Chifley 1945). The Government considered it in Australia's economic and strategic interests to encourage people to settle in remote areas. There were two large zones — the more northern Zone A, which attracted the highest tax deduction, and, below it, Zone B (figure 2). Together they covered around three-quarters of Australia's landmass.

At the time, people in these areas faced some particular challenges: for example, most highways and truck routes were unsealed, planes were expensive and relatively dangerous, people relied on the post rather than email, and there was no or limited access to government services or modern comforts such as television and air conditioning. This heightened the costs and deprivations of geographical isolation and of living on parched earth or in the tropics.

The remote tax deductions received widespread support and indeed were increased significantly in their early years. The Zone A deduction reached 120 pounds (\$240) annually (for individuals) in 1947, compared to average annual wages of about 350 pounds (\$700) that year (ABS 1992; Cox et al. 1981). This reduced the taxable income of recipients by about a fifth of average annual earnings in 1950¹, thereby reducing tax paid by about 3.4 per cent of after-tax income for someone on an average salary (ABS 1992; ATO 2018b).

Subsequent additions and amendments

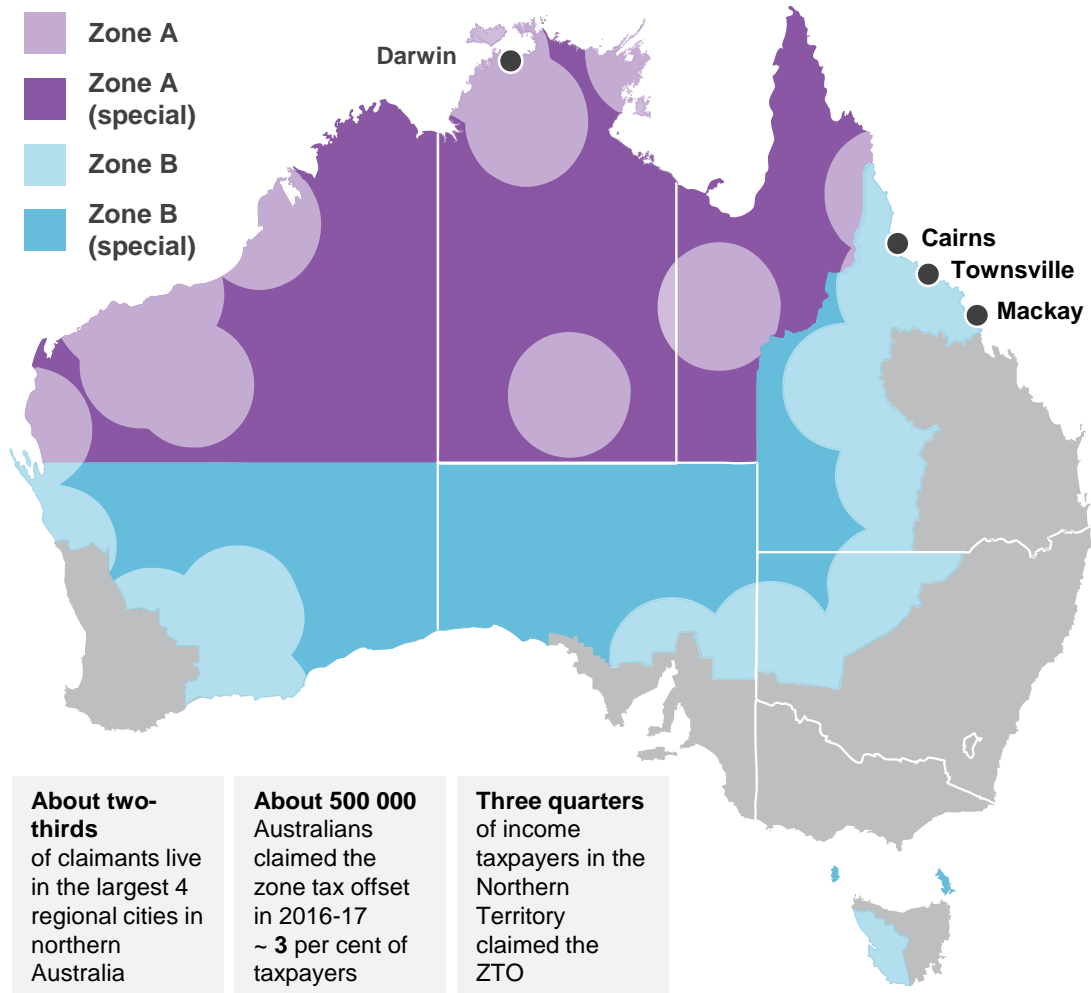
Governments added to the arrangements over the following decades. Notable changes were:

- in 1958, inclusion of a loading for taxpayers with dependent children
- in 1975, conversion of the (pre-tax) deductions into (post-tax) rebates — the ZTO
- in 1982, creation of 'special areas' with higher rebates for especially remote areas (in essence, places more than 250 kilometres from a town of more than 2500 people, as measured in the 1981 census)
- in 1984, introduction of the **Remote Area Allowance** (RAA), which was an equivalent payment for welfare recipients to extend the benefits of the ZTO to non-taxpayers residing in remote Australia
- in 1986, introduction of remote area concessions to lessen the impact of the then new FBT on business operations in remote locations (hereafter, **FBT remote area concessions**)

¹ Income taxation rates prior to 1950 are not readily available.

- in 2000, expansion of the FBT remote area housing exemption to cover all employers in remote areas (instead of just primary producers).

Figure 2 Tax offset zones^{a,b}



Note: ^a Zone A also includes Macquarie Island, Norfolk Island, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, The Territory of Christmas Island and Lord Howe Island. Special areas are approximate only. ^b Data in this figure are from unpublished 2016-17 ATO data and include claimants of the overseas forces offset.

Thus, by 2000, the three sets of arrangements under reference were in place, largely as they are today. Table 1 provides more details on them. Notably, the FBT remote area concession has a different geographic coverage to the ZTO — including areas outside of zones A and B away from larger towns, and excluding areas around large ZTO-recipient centres such as Darwin and Townsville.

Table 1 **Key features of remote area tax concessions and payments^{a,b}**

	Zone Tax Offset (ZTO)	FBT remote area concessions	Remote Area Allowance (RAA)
Recipients	Income taxpayers (employees)	Employers	Income support recipients
Original objectives	Compensating employees in remote areas for the disadvantages of uncongenial climate, isolation and high cost of living.	Lessening the impact of the (then new) FBT on business operations in remote locations	Equity with recipients of the zone tax offset
Area	Zone A, Zone B and special areas	Covers the ZTO areas (with exclusions in major towns) and regional areas outside the zones sufficiently distant from large urban centres	Zone A and special areas
Rates	Special areas: \$1173 + 50% of dependent rebate (max. \$188 per child) a year Zone A: \$338 + 50% of dependent rebate (max. \$188 per child) a year Zone B: \$57 + 20% of dependent rebate (max. \$75.20 per child) a year	Various exemptions or concessions may apply Some benefits, such as employer-provided housing and fly-in fly-out travel, are exempt from FBT For other benefits, such as housing subsidies, residential fuel and holiday travel, the taxable value may be cut by 50%	For a single person: \$18.20 per fortnight (\$473 as an annual rate) For each member of a couple: \$15.60 per fortnight (\$406 as an annual rate) Add \$7.30 per fortnight (\$190 as an annual rate) per dependent child
No. of recipients/claimants	Approx. 487 000 claimants (2016-17)	Not available	Approx. 105 000 recipients (2017-18)
Cost	\$156m (2016-17)	Est. \$120m–\$1.2b (2016-17)	Not available

^a Data for the ZTO are for the number of claimants and total value of claims, but some claimants may not utilise any or all of the claim amount due to insufficient gross tax liabilities. These data also include overseas forces tax offset claims. ^b The cost estimates for the FBT concessions are the sum of the upper and lower bounds of the order of magnitude estimates for the various FBT remote area concessions in Treasury's Tax Benchmarks and Variation Statement.

Sources: ATO (2018a, unpublished ATO data); DHS (2018); DSS (pers. comm. 7 March 2019); Treasury (2019).

Current operation of remote area support

Some consider that the ZTO has become outdated and ineffectual

Apart from a 2015 amendment to the ZTO to exclude fly-in fly-out workers who reside outside the zones, there has been no substantive change to the arrangements for more than thirty years. Moreover, the ZTO's nominal value was last increased in 1993. The base

payment for a single person has thus remained at \$338 a year in Zone A, \$57 in Zone B and \$1173 in the special areas for twenty-five years.

Over time, inflation has eroded the real value of the ZTO (and RAA). Whereas the (pre-tax) Zone A tax deduction reduced tax paid by about 3.4 per cent of after-tax income for someone on an average salary in 1950, the (post-tax) Zone A rebate is worth less than 1 per cent of average after-tax income today (ABS 1992, 2019; table 1; ATO 2018b).

The low level of payments and the limited number of claimants, particularly in the ‘special’ zones and Zone A, mean that the arrangements are not so significant a budget item as they once were.

- Fewer than 500 000 people currently claim the ZTO, which is about 3 per cent of income taxpayers. In 2016-17, the total value of ZTO claims was about \$156 million (table 1).
- Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory account for the vast majority of ZTO claimants and costs (figure 3).
- About two-thirds of ZTO claimants (in 2016-17) lived in one of the four largest cities in northern Australia: Darwin, Townsville, Cairns and Mackay (figure 2).

Stakeholders take different positions on the ZTO. While some have questioned the rationale for having remote area tax concessions at all (see e.g. Cox et al. 1981, pp. 15–6; 29), others have advocated substantially increasing the offset to restore its value and to pursue the current Government’s Northern Australia development agenda. Several suggest redesigning the program to better target assistance to those regions most in need. Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan (2014, p. 19), for example, has observed that:

People in Cairns and Townsville still get \$57 a year for living in an area of “uncongenial conditions”. The zones are out of date, no one will move to Cairns for a carton of beer a year.

Senator the Hon. Ian McDonald has previously noted:

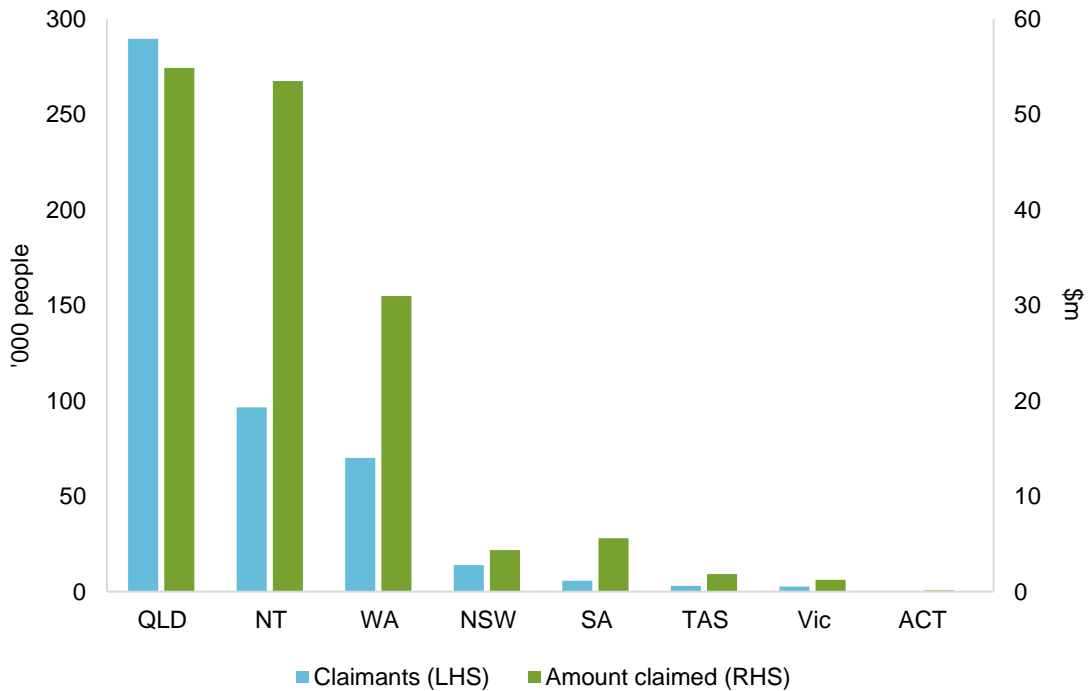
The proper revision and indexation of the Zone Tax Rebate, or some other form of incentive in Northern and Remote Australia, would encourage many Australians to move to the remote parts of our country to where we know the wealth is in agriculture and mining is waiting to be extracted, where what we need most is the people there to do it. (Macdonald 2018)

The costs of the RAA and FBT remote area concessions are unclear, but the latter could be substantial

In 2017-18, about 105 000 people received the RAA. There is no up-to-date information on the cost of the RAA (table 1). When introduced in 1984, the RAA was expected to benefit 30 000 people with an annual budgetary cost of around \$16 million (Commonwealth of Australia 1983).

Although the size and significance of the FBT remote area concessions are unclear, the upper end of Treasury’s broad-ranging estimates (\$1200 million) (table 1), while equivalent to less than 1 per cent of total budget outlays, would account for one quarter of all FBT revenue collected.

Figure 3 **ZTO, claimants and total claims, by state, 2016-17^a**



^a Data are based on individuals’ location at the time of lodging their tax returns, so individuals who move outside the zone before lodging (including to Victoria or the ACT) are included in those jurisdictions. About 2 per cent of total claimants could not be identified by location and are not included. Data also include overseas forces tax offset claims. Data are for the total value of claims, but some claimants may not utilise any or all of the claim amount due to insufficient gross tax liabilities.

Data source: Unpublished ATO data.

Past reviews and context for this study

Only one dedicated review of the ZTO has been undertaken during its life — the Cox review (1981) — although other inquiries into the tax system have commented on the arrangements. For example, the ZTO along with other offsets was covered by the Henry Tax Review (2009). It recommended that the ZTO be reviewed, with a suggestion that this could lead to its removal or replacement. However, that recommendation for a review has not been acted upon until now.

To our knowledge, this study is the first dedicated review of the FBT remote area concessions and the RAA, although they have been examined in broader reviews, such as

the Industry Commission's inquiry into *Impediments to Regional Industry Adjustment* (IC 1993). The Department of Social Security prepared a discussion paper on the RAA in 1989 (DSS 1989).

This study is one of a number of recent projects examining economic issues facing rural and regional Australia. For example, the Australian Government released a white paper in 2015, *Our North, Our Future*, outlining a policy framework for developing Northern Australia (Australian Government 2015). More recently, in 2018, the Australian Senate referred an inquiry into the indicators and impact of regional inequality in Australia to the Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry and report in June 2019.

Due to this study's focus on remote areas, we will evaluate the effects of remote area tax concessions and payments on remote Indigenous communities, as well as any interaction with other government policies designed to assist those communities.

3 The Commission's analytical approach

In essence, the terms of reference ask us to look at:

- the economic and employment impacts of the ZTO, FBT remote area concessions, and RAA
- whether the ZTO, FBT remote area concessions, and RAA are delivering on their policy objectives
- whether those objectives remain appropriate — in other words, whether special assistance for living or operating in remote areas is warranted
- if it is, the appropriate form of that assistance, including whether other instruments may better achieve those objectives for remote areas.

In making such assessments, the Commission will take a community-wide perspective as required by the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*. Thus, although the terms of reference require that we have regard to the economic and employment impacts of remote area tax concessions and payments in regional Australia, the Commission will also consider broader impacts on other parts of the community, such as forgone tax revenue or increased government outlays.

Accurately quantifying the effects of the ZTO, FBT concessions and RAA is not straightforward. For one thing, these arrangements are often highly localised, and in many places the value of the benefits is now quite small, making it difficult to disentangle their effects from other factors. Data at the level of detail required to examine these policies are also hard to come by. In undertaking some initial consultations prior to the release of this issues paper, the Commission has been struck by how little is known about the operation of these arrangements and their impacts.

A recent study by Kettlewell and Yerokhin (2017) — which to our knowledge is the first and only evaluation of the effects of the ZTO — found that the ZTO had a positive but temporary effect on population growth in the targeted areas. However, that study focused on a subset of localities on the border of Zone B during the post-World War Two period, when the real value of the offset in that zone was much higher than it is today.

Given these challenges, the Commission intends to investigate multiple analytical approaches to the evidence, including modelling, statistical analyses and case studies. For example, the Commission’s *Geographic Labour Mobility* study includes quantitative analysis that provides some insight into the ‘locational responsiveness’ of workers to a small increment in their wages, and/or of employers to a small reduction in their labour costs (PC 2014).

In assessing specific forms of assistance and reform options, the Commission will also draw on findings from past Australian and international studies on regional development, such as the Commission’s reports on *Transitioning Regional Economies* (2017) and *Geographic Labour Mobility* (2014). We will also draw on a well-established literature on good policy and tax system design, which emphasises principles such as **efficiency**, **equity** and **simplicity** (box 2).

INFORMATION REQUEST

The Commission invites feedback and input on our analytical approach including:

- *our proposed approach to analysis*
 - *Australian or international studies that may be relevant for our analysis.*
-

Box 2**Tax and transfer design principles and good policy design**

In this study, the Commission will need to engage with fundamental questions about remote area tax concessions and payments (such as the circumstances under which special assistance for living or operating in remote areas is warranted) as well as detailed questions about tax design (such as how to tailor eligibility rules and rates so that assistance is well targeted). Addressing these types of questions will require a flexible approach which is fit for purpose.

Design principles for the tax and transfer system

In assessing detailed tax design options, the Commission will be able to draw on a well-established literature on good-practice tax design. For example, three key design principles for the tax and transfer system, as outlined in the Henry Tax Review (2009) and the Asprey Review (1975), are:

- **Equity:** the tax and transfer system should treat individuals with similar economic capacity in the same way, while those with greater capacity should bear a greater burden.
 - For example, a tax concession intended to compensate for a particular economic disadvantage should be designed so that only taxpayers affected by the disadvantage can benefit from it.
- **Efficiency:** the tax and transfer system should generally raise and redistribute revenue at the least cost to economic efficiency and with minimal administration and compliance costs.
 - Taxes and transfers affect the choices individuals and businesses make by altering their incentives. The tax and transfer system should not unduly get in the way of individuals and businesses acting in their own interests.
- **Simplicity:** the tax and transfer system should be easy to understand and simple to comply with.
 - If individuals and businesses understand the system, they are more likely to act in their best interests and respond to intended policy signals. A simpler system may also involve lower administrative and compliance costs.

Good policy design

For more fundamental questions about the ongoing case for, and form of, remote area assistance, the Commission may need to draw on broader principles of good policy design (Banks 2003; COAG 2007; PC 2001; PM&C 2014), to the effect that policy interventions should:

- have a sound rationale
- bring a net benefit to society
- be better than any alternative
- be proportional to the objective that they are designed to achieve
- be evaluated over time to ensure that they remain relevant and cost-effective
- be transparent, clear and concise
- be consistent with other laws, agreements and international obligations.

4 Issues for investigation

This section outlines some of the issues the Commission will examine as part of this study, along with related questions. Participants are welcome to propose further areas consistent with the terms of reference.

Economic and employment effects

The terms of reference require the Commission to examine the economic and employment impacts of the ZTO, FBT remote area concessions, and RAA, including the effect of applying indexation, in regional Australia.

Typically, the intended effect of place-based policies, such as the ZTO and the FBT remote area concessions, is to boost employment, population, and output in the target regions (or reduce the rate of decline) by making employment in those regions more financially attractive. The extent to which they actually achieve this goal will depend on such factors as the size of the incentives relative to incomes and living costs, public knowledge of the incentives, and the degree to which employers are able to capture the benefits of the tax concessions by reducing wages below what they would otherwise be. As a supplement to income support payments, the RAA will mainly affect income levels and is unlikely to have a significant effect on employment. That said, the RAA will tend to increase spending in remote areas.

Remote area assistance policies may also have broader implications for the Australian economy. To the extent that they affect the allocation of resources (such as labour) across different regions, they will influence productivity in multiple regions and industries. What's more, the cost of assistance policies leaves less tax revenue to spend on public goods, such as public hospitals and roads.

INFORMATION REQUEST

The Commission is seeking data or other evidence that could be used to assess employment and economic effects of remote area tax concessions and payments on affected communities, businesses and individuals. In particular:

- the impact of the concessions and payments on wage and employment decisions*
 - the impact of the concessions and payments on labour mobility and retention, and changes to these impacts as the real value has eroded*
 - the extent to which fringe benefits tax (FBT) remote area concessions influence employers' decisions between offering fly-in fly-out and regular employment*
 - the materiality of the remote area FBT exemptions and concessions to businesses and industry (for example, levels of uptake and total amount claimed)*
 - the likely impost on business and industry if the concessions or exemptions were removed*
 - the materiality of the Remote Area Allowance for individuals and families in remote areas, including Indigenous communities (for example, levels of uptake and share of income)*
 - evidence that employers pay more to attract and recruit labour to remote areas where there is demand for workers.*
-

Objectives of remote area assistance programs

The terms of reference ask whether the arrangements are delivering on their policy objectives and whether those objectives remain appropriate in a contemporary Australia.

A range of justifications have been advanced for special assistance for people living and/or working in remote areas (box 3), although many of these are contentious. For those justifications drawing on the isolation and arduousness of life in the outback, the changes in transport, communications and living conditions over the past seventy years mean that their strength has diminished (at least in many parts of the country). Such arguments have also been challenged on the basis that 'individuals have a free choice whether or not to live or work in remote areas and to compensate them, if they so choose, would lead to resource misallocation and reduced growth for the country as a whole' (see Cox et al. 1981, p. 15).

Box 3**Policy rationales given for the zone tax offset and related arrangements**

Different policy rationales have been proposed (at times, simultaneously) to justify Australian Government support to the specified regions.

- **Equity:** to compensate residents of remote areas for the various disadvantages of living in those areas. These were originally conceived of as uncongenial climatic conditions, isolation or higher costs of living; an alternative basis for comparison may be the level of access to public services.
- **Regional development:** to actively encourage individuals to move to and work in remote regions. This includes historical justifications (an imperative to develop northern Australia's resources, and to populate the north to shore up national security) and contemporary arguments (decentralisation).
- **Industry-specific assistance:** to support industries located in remote areas by mitigating the higher costs of doing business (for example, freight).

After considering various arguments for and against zone allowances, the 1981 Cox inquiry report found that the most compelling rationale for their continuation was on social grounds, but the panel caveated this finding (Cox et al. 1981, p. 31).

The Inquiry does, however, believe that at the present time there is justification for the continuation of zone allowances on social grounds. There is a need for some measure of relief from the disadvantages suffered as a result of isolation, climate and high costs ...

The cessation of what has become an accepted and expected concession would create a feeling of loss among the people concerned. However, as conditions in what are at present isolated areas improve, either by natural economic growth or as a result of government policy, the need for a special taxation concession will diminish.

The Commission will need to evaluate the merits of all the arguments put forward in support of the remote area arrangements. In doing so, we will have regard to Australia's system of horizontal fiscal equalisation, which transfers goods and services tax revenue from the Commonwealth to the States and Territories with the aim of equalising their fiscal capacity to deliver public services, taking into account differences in the cost of providing services due to factors such as remoteness. We will also have regard to relevant expenditures, activities and legislation of the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments focused on regional development and assistance, such as the Commonwealth's Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme and the Western Australian Government's Royalties for Regions program.

As the Cox inquiry predates the introduction of the RAA and FBT remote area concessions, and there is limited public information on either of these policies, we are particularly interested in views on the extent to which the policy rationales used to support the ZTO (and its previous incarnations) apply to the RAA and FBT remote area concessions.

INFORMATION REQUEST

The Commission is seeking information on:

- *which, if any, of the policy rationales given for special assistance for people in remote areas remain valid in a contemporary Australia and why*
 - *the costs of living in regional and remote areas within the zones compared to other parts of Australia (for example, the costs of food, communications, transport, education, healthcare and housing)*
 - *changes in the cost of living in remote areas over recent decades*
 - *changes in technology, transport, and infrastructure over recent decades that have affected the hardships of living in areas that are geographically isolated or have uncongenial conditions*
 - *any other forms of government assistance available to people living in remote areas (including Indigenous communities) to assist them in overcoming disadvantages such as a high cost of living or limited access to government and non-government services*
 - *whether the policy rationales given to support the zone tax offset (and its previous incarnations) apply to the fringe benefits tax, remote area FBT concessions, or Remote Area Allowance.*
 - *whether there is merit in moving away from remote area assistance based on concepts such as the relative costs of living, and instead basing assistance on more direct measures of disadvantage or need.*
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5 Options for revising current arrangements

Another issue the Commission will need to evaluate is whether the current system of remote area tax concessions and payments is the most **efficient, cost-effective, equitable, and simple** way to provide that assistance. As noted in section 2, some stakeholders have suggested that the current ZTO assistance is inadequate and/or poorly targeted, resulting in anomalous outcomes (Australian Government 2015, p. 104; Manning 2013). Others have questioned the constitutionality of the ZTO in its current form (box 4).

Box 4 **Constitutionality of the zone tax offset**

Since the establishment of remote area deductions in 1945, there has been ongoing debate about whether providing assistance through the tax system based on geographic delineations of remoteness complies with the Constitution of Australia. Section 51(ii) of the Constitution confers on the Commonwealth the power to make laws with respect to 'Taxation; but so as not to discriminate between States or parts of States'. Section 99 further states 'The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of ... revenue, give preference to one State or any part thereof over another State or any part thereof'.

After seeking the advice of the Attorney-General's Department on the constitutional validity of zone tax offset, as described in section 79A of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (Cwlth), the Cox review (1981, p. 5) noted that:

there was doubt about the issue and that [the reviewers] could have no assurance that the provision was constitutionally sound, notwithstanding that the arrangements had been in existence since 1945.

The arrangements have never been tested in the High Court.

While it is not the Commission's role to pass judgment on the constitutionality of the zone tax offset and fringe benefits tax remote area concessions, it will consider potential constitutional risks when analysing different reform options.

The Commission is seeking participant views on the following Information Request.

INFORMATION REQUEST

The Commission is seeking information on:

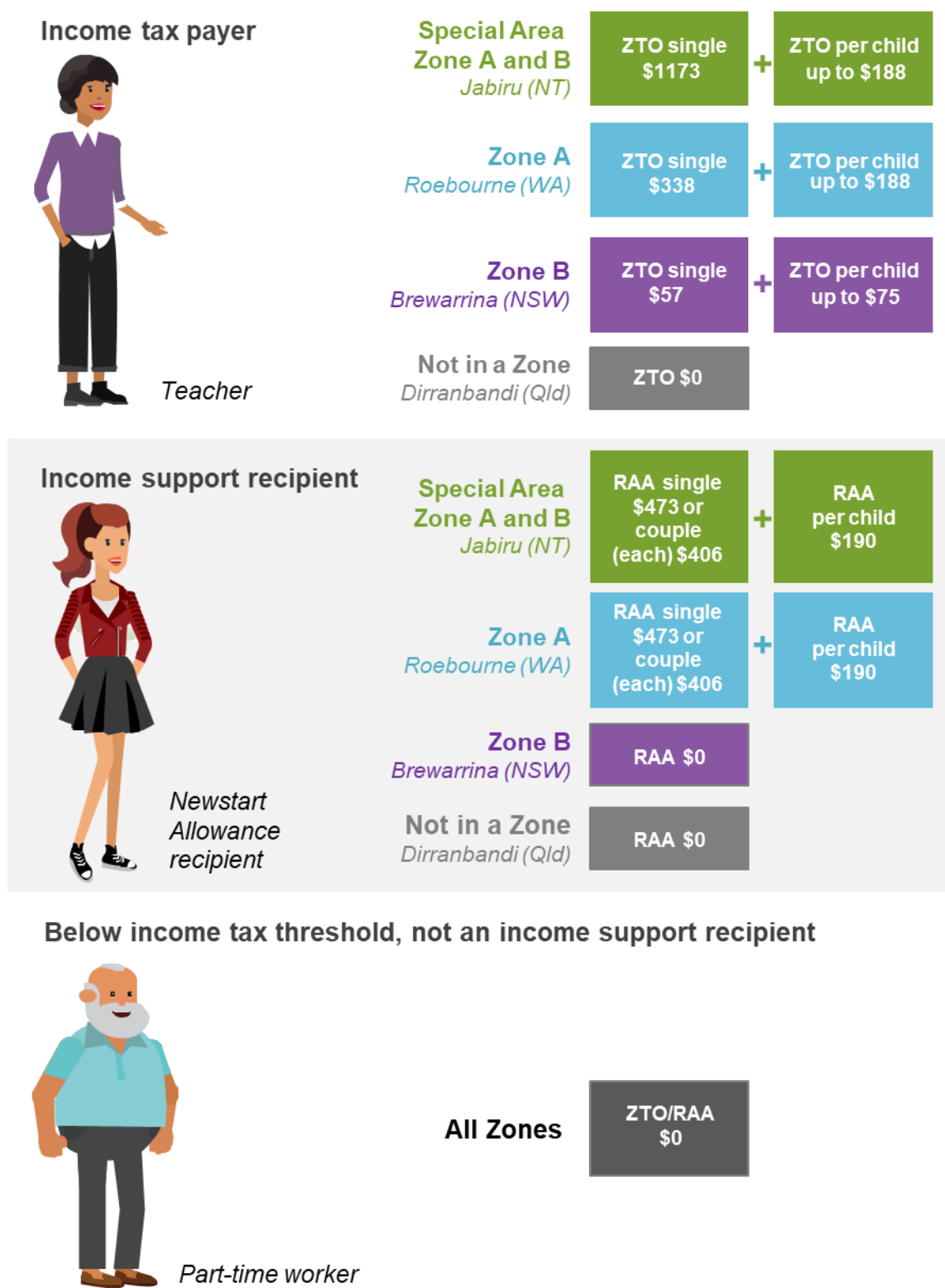
- *what you consider to be the policy objectives of the ZTO, FBT remote area tax concessions and Remote Area Allowance, respectively*
- *whether these remote area tax concessions and payments are delivering on their policy objectives (including any quantitative evidence)*
- *whether the ZTO, FBT remote area tax concessions or RAA should be kept*
- *ways to redesign the ZTO, FBT remote area tax concessions and Remote Area Allowance (collectively or individually) so they are more efficient, equitable and simple*
- *the anticipated benefits, costs and implementation issues associated with proposed reform options.*

There are also a number of specific questions based on the terms of reference and initial research and consultation for this study on which participants may wish to provide views, including:

- **Should the ZTO special area boundaries be redrawn to reflect contemporary settlement patterns?** The current special areas are based on town sizes as measured in the 1981 census. Would updating these boundaries based on more recent census data increase the effectiveness of special assistance through better targeting? If so, should the boundaries continue to be updated with each new Census?

-
- **Are there criteria that would help better target assistance in line with whatever objectives are deemed appropriate for remote area support?** The Cox inquiry (1981, p. 30) noted that ‘dissatisfaction with the taxation system is increased when the necessarily arbitrary nature of the zone areas is realised and individuals recognise the wide variations in conditions within the zones’. Would measures of remoteness (such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics Remoteness Areas) or functional economic regions be a more effective and transparent basis for allocating assistance?
 - **Should larger regional centres continue to be included in the arrangements?** The largest four cities in the zones (Darwin, Townsville, Cairns and Mackay) account for around two-thirds of ZTO claimants. Is there a valid justification for the inhabitants to receive special assistance relative to the inhabitants of other Australian cities or regional areas that are not currently eligible?
 - **Should the payment levels be changed, indexed, and/or means tested?** Is there a case for changes to the level of payments (or eligibility for payments) to ensure that assistance is both adequate and well-targeted?
 - **Given that the RAA was introduced as a companion payment to the ZTO, should eligibility and payment rates be amended to address eligibility anomalies between ZTO and RAA?** (figure 4)
 - **Is there scope to rationalise the three arrangements into one payment for people in remote areas?** The Henry Tax Review (2009, p. 32) recommended that ‘To remove complexity and ensure government assistance is properly targeted, concessional offsets should be removed, rationalised, or replaced by outlays’.
 - **Should businesses in remote areas be provided with ZTO-like support?** If so, what would be an appropriate mechanism for doing so? What need would this address that is not already addressed by the FBT remote area tax concessions and other policies targeting businesses in remote areas?
 - **Are there alternative mechanisms to more directly support Australians residing in specified geographic areas?**
 - **Would the forgone revenue and expenditure from the tax concessions and payments be better allocated to State and Territory governments to provide additional funding for their regional development programs?**
 - **Should the Government seek to attract graduates possessing in-demand skills to regional areas by forgiving their HELP debts?**

Figure 4 Example of differences in ZTO and RAA rates^a



^a The Remote Area Allowance (RAA) is paid fortnightly. RAA estimates have been annualised for comparative purposes. The zone tax offset (ZTO) refers to the maximum rate; less will be paid if tax liability is less than the maximum ZTO. Income support recipients who also pay income tax may be eligible for both RAA and ZTO, but the ZTO is reduced dollar-for-dollar by any RAA received during the assessment year.

6 References

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Attachment A: How to make a submission

How to prepare a submission

Submissions may range from a short letter outlining your views on a particular topic to a much more substantial document covering a range of issues. Where possible, you should provide evidence, such as relevant data and documentation, to support your views.

Generally

- Each submission, except for any attachment supplied in confidence, will be published on the Commission's website shortly after receipt, and will remain there indefinitely as a public document.
- The Commission reserves the right to not publish material on its website that is offensive, potentially defamatory, or clearly out of scope for the inquiry or study in question.

Copyright

- Copyright in submissions sent to the Commission resides with the author(s), not with the Commission.
- Do not send us material for which you are not the copyright owner — such as newspaper articles — you should just reference or link to this material in your submission.

In confidence material

- This is a public review and all submissions should be provided as public documents that can be placed on the Commission's website for others to read and comment on. However, information which is of a confidential nature or which is submitted in confidence can be treated as such by the Commission, provided the cause for such treatment is shown.
- The Commission may also request a non-confidential summary of the confidential material it is given, or the reasons why a summary cannot be provided.
- Material supplied in confidence should be clearly marked 'IN CONFIDENCE' and be in a separate attachment to non-confidential material.
- You are encouraged to contact the Commission for further information and advice before submitting such material.

Privacy

- For privacy reasons, all **personal** details (e.g. home and email address, signatures, phone, mobile and fax numbers) will be removed before they are published on the website. Please do not provide these details unless necessary.

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- You may wish to remain anonymous or use a pseudonym. Please note that, if you choose to remain anonymous or use a pseudonym, the Commission may place less weight on your submission.

Technical tips

- The Commission prefers to receive submissions as Microsoft Word (.docx) files. PDF files are acceptable if produced from a Word document or similar text based software. You may wish to research the Internet on how to make your documents more accessible or, for the more technical, follow advice from Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0<<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>>.
- Do not send password protected files.
- Track changes, editing marks, hidden text and internal links should be removed from submissions.
- To minimise linking problems, type the full web address (for example, <http://www.referred-website.com/folder/file-name.html>).

How to lodge a submission

Submissions should be lodged using the online form on the Commission's website. Submissions lodged by post should be accompanied by a submission cover sheet.

Online*	www.pc.gov.au/remote-tax
Post*	Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments Productivity Commission GPO Box 1428, Canberra City ACT 2601, Australia

* If you do not receive notification of receipt of your submission to the Commission, please contact the Administrative Officer.

Due date for submissions

Please send submissions to the Commission by **Monday 29 April 2019**.

12 TOURISM UPDATE

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	Nil

Purpose:

To inform Alliance members of information and actions in the tourism sector since the 7th February Tourism Round-table.

Background:

At the RCAWA meeting held on 7 February 2019, a Tourism round-table was held and was attended by representatives from Tourism WA, Tourism Council of WA, Australian Tourism Export Council, WAITOC, and AHA. Discussions covered many areas surrounding tourism, with each of the guests providing information on their organisation's role in tourism and the main focus and issues confronting them.

Alliance members were able to put forward to the tourism organisations that, as a group, they:

- were concerned with the level of Perth-centric tourism promotion, even though certain aspects of tourism, such as Indigenous tourism, mining tourism and some aspects of natural beauty such as wild flowers and coastal landscapes could be better provided by Regional WA
- still had concerns regarding prohibitive airline costs
- would like better communication and consultation with RTOs and ultimately Tourism WA.

It was agreed at the meeting that the RCAWA Executive Officer would follow up with Kym Francesconi, Partnership Manager at Tourism WA to further develop a better engagement model with the alliance members and RTOs and potentially form a tourism subcommittee to enable a direct connection to TWA.

A meeting update was forwarded to RCAWA CEOs on 18 February advising that the Executive Officer had arranged a meeting with Kym and also advising details of the ATE conference from 8-11 April and the famil tours which are to be held across the state.

Discussion:

RCAWA Executive Officer met with Kym Francesconi, Partnership Manager of Tourism WA, on 13 February and 22 February in order to discuss:

- better ways to engage the RCAWA with the five-regional tourism organisations (RTOs).
- RTO contracts expire in 2020 and a paper outlining new arrangements and future contract conditions is being developed, the Executive Officer may be able to review and add Alliance member engagement conditions as part of new contracts.
- the possibility of developing an MOU
- The EO's attendance at the state RTO meetings, the first of which he has been invited to make a presentation concerning the RCAWA. The date of this is still to be advised
- The possibility of Brodie Carr, Chief Executive of Tourism WA attending a future RCAWA meeting
- The EO also met with the General Manager of the golden Outback RTO, Marcus Falconer and South West RTO, Catrin Alsop to discuss better ways to ensure Alliance issues are addressed.

Following on from these meetings, Kym offered the Alliance members access to the ATE conference. Tours have been organised for 11 April at 2.15 for the following people:

- Jason Whiteaker
- Chris Antonio
- Dennis Wellington
- Andrew Sharpe
- Grant Henley
- Shane Van Styn
- Trish Palmonari
- John Walker
- John Bowler
- Paul Rosair
- Gary Barbour
- Jane Lewis

Link to Strategic Directions:

Partnership and collaboration
Representation

Budget Implications

Nil

RCAWA Resolution

That the Alliance note the tourism update

MOVED: Dennis Wellington - Mayor City of Albany

SECONDED: Jason Whiteaker - CEO Shire of Northam

CARRIED

13 MACWA AWARDS

Date of Report:	11 April 2019
Report Author:	Executive Officer – Paul Rosair
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	1. MACWA Flyer 2. Nomination form 3. MACWA Framework

Purpose:

To advise the Alliance members on the status of the MACWA Awards

Background:

RCAWA successfully ran the inaugural MACWA awards in 2018 and subsequently decided to continue its role for 2019. In January 2019, Melissa Northcott: Member of the Department of Communities Disability Services Board was offered a position of ‘Awards Ambassador’ and was also offered an honorarium of \$500 for transport and out-of-pocket expenses. She will also continue on as a judge, as will Bruce Langoulant: Chairperson Disability Services Board and Julie Waylen: CEO National Disability Service WA.

RCAWA Executive Officer met with Ryan Campbell from the City of Bunbury on 5 March 2019 to commence preparations for this year’s awards. Discussions were also held with Tony Brown, Executive Manager, Governance and Organisational Services at WALGA regarding presentation event details.

Discussion:

To date the following activities have been carried out:

- Flyer updated
- Information sheet and application forms updated
- Judges contacted and letters sent
- Email sent to WALGA, all judges, all RCAWA members, Ryan Campbell and Brendan Kelly with details of 2019 awards and request to promote on appropriate websites
- Tony Brown committed to \$1000 for framing of four awards in 2019.
- Last years overall winner, Cockburn, was contacted and requested to send an invoice for the \$500 to a community organisation, as they have not been paid this as yet

Link to Strategic Directions:

Partnership Collaboration
Representation

Budget Implications:

\$500 – Overall winner

\$500 - Melissa Northcott honorary ambassador fee

\$500 – Incidentals if required

RCAWA Resolution

That RCAWA note the update and approve the budget implications

MOVED: Chris Adams - CEO City of Karratha

SECONDED: John Walker - CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

CARRIED

2019 MACWA AWARDS

MOST ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nominations considered under the categories of:

- Metropolitan Council
- Regional City/Capital
- Regional Shire/Town

Nomination forms are available at:
www.waregionalcapitals.com.au
Or contact: Jane Lewis 0419322779
janeredz1@gmail.com
Closing Date 1 July 2019

Awards Criteria: Improve the accessibility of
Council infrastructure and public open spaces

Inclusive communication technology and information initiatives

Accessible and inclusive Council services, programs and events

Exercises leadership and influences community attitudes and perceptions

Nomination Form



Regional Capitals Alliance
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Most Accessible Community in Western Australia (MACWA) Awards

Closing date: 5pm, Monday, 1 July 2019

Nominations to be emailed to: janeredz1@gmail.com

Contact Jane Lewis on: 0419 322 779

CRITERIA

Local Government involvement in the promotion of the rights of people with a disability and advance access and inclusion for all.

Specifically, the Judging Panel will consider the following criteria:

1. Improve the accessibility of Council infrastructure and public open space;
2. Inclusive communication technology and information initiatives;
3. Accessible and inclusive Council services, programs and events;
4. Exercises leadership and influences community attitudes and perceptions.

Photographs and/or other evidence of your initiative as well as testimonials from people with a disability, their carers and family are encouraged.

Initiatives that go above and beyond the statutory obligations (DAIP, BCA etc.) will be highly regarded.

Local Government Nominated	City / Town / Shire of:
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Contact Details	Title &		
	Organisation		
	Address:		
		Postcode:	
	Telephone:		Facsimile:
Mobile:		Email:	

Category	Metro Council	
	Regional Council	
	Regional Shire/Town	

CONTACTS

T: 0419322779 E: janeredz1@gmail.com

Nomination Form 2019

RCAWA MACWA Award



(If insufficient space, please attach additional information on a separate sheet).

Photographs and/or other evidence of your initiative as well as testimonials from people with a disability, their carers and family are encouraged. Please attach separately along with this form.

Name (s)	Signature	Date

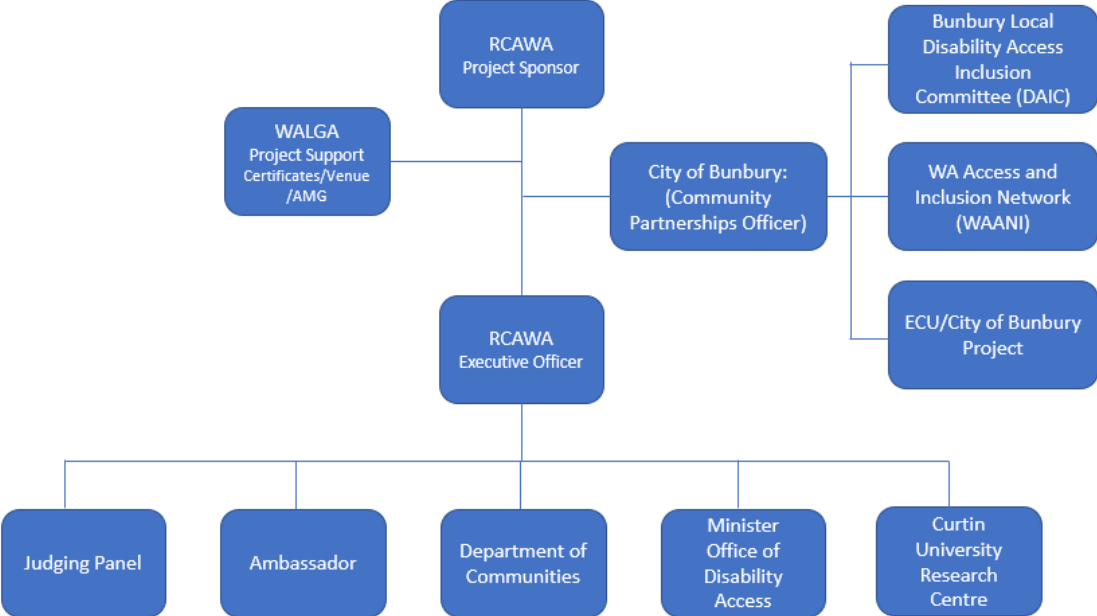
Please return to Jane Lewis, RCAWA Executive Support

EMAIL: janeredz1@gmail.com

UNSIGNED AND/OR UNDATED NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

EMAILED NOMINATIONS MUST BE DIGITALLY SIGNED

MOST ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA AWARDS - FRAMEWORK



14 OTHER BUSINESS

RCAWA Resolution

Federal Election Strategy:

- Letter to be sent to all candidates
- Follow up post-election

MOVED: Chris Adams - CEO City of Karratha

SECONDED: Harold Tracey - Shire President Shire of Broome

CARRIED

Planning Reform – next steps

Noted – Letter to be sent to the Director General of Planning requesting an update on where the White Paper is currently.

MOVED: Dennis Wellington - Mayor City of Albany

SECONDED: Grant Henley - Mayor City of Busselton

CARRIED

LGIS workers compensation

- Reject offer
- Delegation to LGIS
- Invite Chair, CEO and WALGA

MOVED: Dennis Wellington - Mayor City of Albany

SECONDED: John Walker - CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

CARRIED

Police Minister: issues arising as per Tourism round-table
EO to send out request for information to all members

MOVED: Dennis Wellington - Mayor City of Albany

SECONDED: John Walker - CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

CARRIED

Date of June meeting

The date of the June meeting will be moved to 10 July 2019 to coincide with the Developing Northern Australia conference being held in Karratha 11-12 July 2019. Reminder there is also a meeting to be held in Perth on 1 August 2019.

MOVED: Grant Henley - Mayor City of Busselton

SECONDED: Dennis Wellington - Mayor City of Albany

CARRIED

15 CLOSURE & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.20pm