

MEDIA RELEASE – 7th August 2017

Government funding will create more regional jobs

The Building Better Regions Fund is a step in the right direction in creating much needed jobs across the region, according to Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland.

Townsville and North West Queensland has secured \$14,242,507 for three projects, under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

Projects in the RDA region successful in the first round of BBRF Infrastructure Projects Stream include;

Flinders Shire Council: \$4,109,075 for construction of the Hughenden Recreational Lake

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council: \$9,994 432 for construction of Bwgcolman Retail and Business Precinct Stage 2

Richmond Early Education Centre Inc: \$139,000 for installation of a new safe and functional children's playground and outdoor facilities

The Building Better Regions Fund received more than 500 applications and about 100 were approved across Australia.

RDA Committee Acting Chairman Mr Frank Beveridge said the new projects would provide a much needed boost to the region's economy.

"These projects will create much needed short and long term jobs in regions where unemployment rates are very high, particularly youth unemployment," Mr Beveridge said.

"This BBRF program allows local communities to decide which projects can build their region and create jobs," he said.

RDA Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner said RDA had played a lead role in promoting and supporting the new BBRF program.

"RDA held free workshops across the regions to provide councils and not-for-profit organisations advice on developing strong applications for the Building Better Regions Fund, as well as providing applicants with one on one advice and letters of support," Ms Schuntner said.

"The program provides funding for both infrastructure projects and community investment that will create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities."

The Australian Government is expected to open another round of BBRF before the end of the year.

More information about the Building Better Regions Fund is available at: www.business.gov.au/bbrf.

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