

MEDIA RELEASE – 3 July 2018

Regional expertise boosted on RDA Committee

Leaders from local government and small business are set to bring a wealth of regional expertise to the new Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland (RDA) committee.

Current committee member David Donohue has been appointed Deputy Chair, while three people with a broad range of experience and interests have been appointed new committee members.

The new members include; Mayor of Carpentaria Shire Council Jack Bawden, Burdekin Shire Council Councillor John Woods and General Manager at SeaLink Queensland Chris Briggs.

Mayor Jack Bawden has extensive experience in both local government and small business.

“RDA provides an opportunity to further enhance the prosperity and viability of the communities in the Gulf Region,” Cr Bawden said.

Councillor John Woods also has a broad range of experience with 18 years in local government and 15 years running his own farming business.

“I have become a RDA committee member to do what I can to assist the growth of the small communities in our region and to ensure that they have input into their socio-economic future,” Cr Woods said.

Chris Briggs has many years of experience operating within senior and executive management teams.

“I am particularly passionate about economic development in rural and regional communities,” Mr Briggs said.

“My life and work experience brings a keen understanding of a wide range of industries and the challenges they face operating within our region.”

Deputy Chair David Donohue will now take on the role of Acting Chair, after Chair Frank Beveridge stood down from his position late last week.

Mr Beveridge is stepping down for the period he will be running as a candidate for the seat of Kennedy leading up to the next federal election.

Acting Chair David Donohue joined the RDA committee in 2015 and is an experienced company director, Chairs the Council of The Good Shepherd Home and is President of TropLinks.

Other committee members who have been re-elected for the new three year term, include: Cr Mary Brown Deputy Mayor of Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Prof. Sabina Knight Director of Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health James Cook University, Cr June Kuhl Deputy Mayor of Richmond Shire Council and Cr Greg Campbell Mayor of Cloncurry Shire Council.



Mr Donohue said the new team provided a good reflection of the RDA area, with leaders from local government, small business and academia.

“All our committee members are passionate about supporting economic development in our rural and regional communities,” he said.

“RDA committees play an active role in growing strong regional economies, identifying economic opportunities and attracting investment.”

RDA Townsville and North West Queensland covers 15 Local Government areas – Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Richmond and Townsville. For further information go to: www.rdanwq.org.au

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