

MEDIA RELEASE — 19 March, 2018

Minister appoints Chair for RDA Committee

Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP has appointed Mr Frank Beveridge as the Chair of the Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland Committee.

“It is important that Chairs of RDA Committees have extensive experience and networks in their regions to lead and support initiatives that can drive economic growth,” Minister McVeigh said.

“Mr Beveridge joined the RDA Committee in 2016 and has been the Acting Chair since April, 2017. He brings extensive small business experience across the region as well as experience in local government where he was the Mayor of Charters Towers Regional Council for four years and a Councillor before that.”

“I wish to acknowledge that the RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Committee has performed very strongly since they were established in 2009.”

“I recognize the leading work that RDA has done on the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) project. The Committee brought together 33 local governments, 5 RDA Committees and RACQ as partners in this significant project to make a positive difference to regional economic development outcomes.”

“I wish the Committee on-going success in all their endeavours.”

“I applied for this position as I have been the Acting Chair over the past year and I believe RDA has an important role to play in cross-regional economic growth. I am honoured that the Minister has appointed me,” Mr Beveridge said.

“We have one of the largest RDA areas in Australia, covering seven times the size of Tasmania. Challenges come with that scale of area to cover, but I am looking forward to working with our community and business leaders, RDA Committee members and staff to lead and support projects that drive economic growth.”

“Our RDA already has a track record of supporting project proponents to secure economic development grant funding of more than \$36 million to enable projects of more than \$90 million to go ahead. I want us to build on that.”

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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