



**Regional
Development**
Australia

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND
AND TORRES STRAIT INC

Regional Development Australia

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND & TORRES STRAIT

Annual Report

2018/2019

Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland & Torres Strait
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An Australian Government Initiative

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From the Chair and CEO

After a delayed start to 2018/19, the new Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland & Torres Strait (RDA) Board and team hit the ground running, delivering numerous projects and activities to grow our region.

Heading in a new project driven direction RDA has:

- ✓ Delivered the Lakeland Irrigation Area feasibility report and gained a \$10m Federal Government Commitment to progress to project
- ✓ Obtained Federal Government funding of \$750k to undertake research/analysis and a feasibility study into the production of green-waste compost for use in agriculture.
- ✓ Formed the RDA Taskforce to achieve a unanimous outcome for stakeholders of the Cairns Port
- ✓ Increased RDA's regional and online presence
- ✓ Contributed to the region achieving \$344,802 via the Building Better Regions Fund
- ✓ Connected FNQ proponents with NAIF Funding via a joint workshop
- ✓ Joined forces with regional industries and organisations to successfully advocate and bid for regional project funding; and
- ✓ Brought the region's economic/development agencies together to bring a unified voice to regional advocacy.

We are continuing to develop our Project Assessment Tool to measure projects against a quadruple bottom line and scoping a proposal for using silage as a means of drought mitigation for graziers.

In our role of co-chair for the Cape York Region Package (CYRP) sub working group and taskforce and the Far North Queensland Trade and Investment Group (FNQ TIG) we are providing improved access to Cape York, while providing employment, training and business development opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and developing initiatives to support greater trade and investment outcomes and collaboration across Far North Queensland.

2018/19 saw RDA:

- ✓ Be actively involved in the creation, preservation and/or filling of over 3,000 jobs and 19,000 hours of Indigenous employment and training
- ✓ Assist over 160 organisations to connect to government programs
- ✓ Connect 119 organisations, entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders with business support, investment and growth programs
- ✓ Engage and assist over 100 stakeholders
- ✓ Engage and collaborate with over 36 stakeholder organisations
- ✓ Provide 18 reports/submissions to Government about crucial regional development issues
- ✓ Assist in the delivery of seven government initiatives
- ✓ Connect five organisations with export opportunities or export readiness support

We recruited a new team and specialist consultants, improved governance and compliance, renovated the office, altering the floorplan to make more space, upgraded the IT, cabling and phone systems and made the move to support our regional bank.

As we look towards the next financial year, RDA continues to punch above its weight, with our work held up as best practice and our organisation recognised as the most active of the 52 RDA's nationally.

David Kempton (Chair) & Danielle Carey (CEO)

Who we are

Regional Development Australia is a national network of 52 Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

RDA Far North Queensland & Torres Strait has sought to position itself as an umbrella organisation, connecting other economic development organisations in the region.

RDA actively establishes linkages, facilitates engagement and opens conversations regarding the future planning and development of the region. It seeks to remove silos, encouraging collaboration towards a common regional vision and works to ensure regional projects and programmes are inclusive, connected and are considerate of their social, cultural and environmental impacts.

Reassessment of RDA activities and priorities to improve alignment with and delivery of the 2018-2020 Funding Agreement outcomes and objectives of the RDA Charter has focused RDA towards the project facilitation and investment space.

Priority activities for the organisation under the leadership of incoming Chair, David Kempton who commenced in February 2018, include:

- Raising the profile of RDA as a leader in the regional development and infrastructure delivery space
- Leveraging opportunities being created by the Federal Government commitment to regional and international economies and markets.
- Ensuring RDA services the entire Far North Queensland and Torres Strait region in an equitable and efficient manner
- Developing a mid to long term strategy in collaboration with the region to identify those industries that afford us the greatest economic, social and environmental benefit and see that resources are directed to developing those industries
- Securing a closer working relationship with the Queensland State Government

Our Charter

Working in close partnership with fellow RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees will:

- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify economic opportunities and leverage private and public sector investment to the regions;
- Connect regional businesses, councils and industry sectors with international trade partners, financial markets and potential investors;
- Promote and disseminate information on Australian Government policies and grant programs to state and local governments and industry, business and community sectors;
- Support community stakeholders to develop project proposals to access funding;
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with the local government bodies in their regions;
- Facilitate public and private sector decentralisation;
- Assist in the delivery of Australian Government programs, where relevant and where requested by the Minister;
- Engage with regional entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders to explore new opportunities to grow local jobs in their regions;
- Provide information on their region's activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors; and
- Provide evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on critical regional development issues positively and negatively affecting their regions.

Our Committee

The RDA Committee, drawn from leaders and experts from across the region, has an active and facilitative role in the community and a clear focus on growing a strong and confident regional economy that harnesses its competitive advantages, seizes on economic opportunity and attracts investment.



THE RDA COMMITTEE and Staff

Dr Scott David, Danielle Carey (CEO), Fred White, Jodie Duignan-George, Joe Moro, David Kempton (Chair), Rob Giason, Cr Brett Moller (Deputy Chair), Carolyn Eagle (Treasurer), Julie-ann Lambourne, Bill



David Kempton – Chair

David Kempton has been living and working in the far north for over 30 years. Initially in Cooktown where he opened the first law practice since 1985, and ultimately in Cairns as a sole practitioner and later with Preston Law where he now works as a specialist consultant. David was the Member for Cook and Assistant Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs 2012 – 2015. Since arriving in the north in 1985 David has developed a keen sense of community and strongly believes that true community growth and social reform come through economic development. David is keen to see the RDA take a lead role in projects and programs that bring long term benefits to the region. David has a very hands on approach to the future direction of the RDA and has many years of experience to offer.



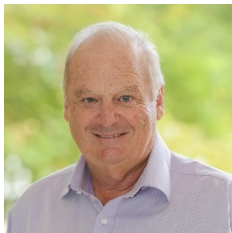
Brett Moller – Deputy Chair / Secretary

Brett is an elected Councillor on the Cairns Regional Council representing Division 1, the largest division with predominately rural and farming land and being the growth corridor in the southern part of the greater Council area. He Chairs the Council's Governance Committee and is a member of the Infrastructure, Water and Waste and Planning and Economic Committees of Council. Brett is a respected lawyer and a former partner in a regional law practice until his election to Council having been admitted in the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia and has been a practicing lawyer for over twenty-five years. He is a former Chair of the Queensland Government owned Ports North Corporation, a former State President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland and has served as a Director on the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Brett has significant Director experience, is a strong community and business advocate and through meaningful collaboration believes in a power with, rather than power over, style of community leadership.



Carolyn Eagle – Treasurer

Carolyn has a diverse professional and business background. She has served on the governing bodies of State and Local government, as well as supported strategic partnerships and initiatives that provide both public and private sector growth opportunities. Carolyn a committed representative of our region, known for her integrity and ability to unlock opportunities that generate beneficial outcomes for our region. Carolyn is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia and holds a number of other professional qualifications. She is a Director of Pacifica Chartered Accountants and heads their Assurance and Advisory Services division.



Bill Shannon – Committee Member

Bill lives at Mission Beach and is a Director of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Board. He was Mayor of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council from 2008 until 2016 when he did not seek re-election. He has an economics degree from the University of Sydney, is a chartered accountant, a public company director and a member of the Governance Institute of Australia. With his wife he grows sugar cane and stud cattle and is interested in sustainable economic development and natural resource management. He was the Chair of the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, a Member of the Advance Cairns Advisory Committee and Director of Terrain, NRM but is still involved as a Member of the Audit and Finance Committee.



Rob Giason – Committee Member

Rob has over 40 years of tourism and regional economic management and marketing experience, specialising in regional brand development, growing destination capacity and promoting sustainable regional economies. Active participation in marketing/communications, administration and governance disciplines at CEO level across seven diverse Australian regions, (Tasmania, Griffith, Albury/Wodonga, Blue Mountains, Sydney/NSW and Tropical North Queensland) has progressed Robs passion for regional communities and their positive development. Rob has directly managed key strategic disciplines such as, regionally designed strategic destination planning, (tourism, economic development, events and marketing). He has directed innovative aviation route development and general transport logistics policy planning and has established respectful and valued stakeholder partnerships involving productive working relationships across government and industry.



Julie-ann Lambourne – Committee Member

Julie-ann's experience over 20 years of State and Federal Government in education, employment and training; including working in Social Services in homelessness, social welfare and youth services. Julie-ann's areas of expertise include community development, social engagement, cultural mentoring, innovation, project management which translated to the development of programs within the framework of community and individual capacity building, including use of advanced technologies. Julie-ann is passionate in development Indigenous businesses and leaders; and working with marginalised people to overcome adversities.



Scott Davis – Committee Member

As a highly skilled and experienced executive and Director, Dr Scott Davis is committed to driving a regional economic and social development agenda, facilitating collaboration between all levels of government and industry, advising on regional, rural and remote workforce development to meet the needs of industry, and building economic and social infrastructure for sustainable communities. Scott bring to the RDA committee expertise in the commercial sector, health sector, Indigenous development, international and domestic workforce development, economic and social policy and research, and in facilitating collaboration between industry and research institutions. Scott recently stepped down as the Chief Executive of the Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network, an Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council Network supported initiative, to continue his work on improving social, economic and health outcomes in regional Australia. Scott is currently with the Cairns Institute (James Cook University) leading an international capacity building project in Papua New Guinea.



Jodie Duignan-George – Committee Member

Jodie is the Associate Vice-Chancellor, Cairns and Far North Region for CQUniversity. Jodie commenced with CQUniversity in 2014 to establish a campus in Cairns. With a 20+ year career in higher education, Jodie has a strong understanding of the issues facing the sector, particularly from a regional university perspective. Her interests, however, extend beyond higher education to include regional development more broadly. She is an engagement specialist and a strategic thinker who loves working with 'out of the norm' ideas. Jodie is an active member of her community, serving on the Management Committees of Study Cairns (as Vice President) and Cairns Chamber of Commerce (as Vice President). Jodie is also a Director on the Board of Advance Cairns and the Company Secretary of Engagement Australia.



Joe Moro – Committee Member

Joe was Born in Mareeba with a Farming background, now a mango farmer and also involved in a motor mechanic business called Moro Auto Repairs. As President of Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association since 1995 has led him into becoming involved in a number of community actives and organisations. He has had a long involvement in the community interests. Not only does he deal with fruit and vegetable issues but also a wide range of economic development and social issues as well. He has represented the area on a local, state and national basis. He has always had a wide community interest and see an important need for a strong voice, and someone who can find and pursue the issues for the Atherton Tableland Community.



Fred White – Committee Member

Fred joined Sea Swift in January 2009 as the CEO after spending 20 years in the mining industry predominately in Mount Isa. Fred was one of the few General Managers in the modern era to have worked from the ground up, holding management positions with Mount Isa Mines and later Executive Management positions with Xstrata Zinc. Since joining Sea Swift Fred has successfully steered the company through the GFC and change of ownership, retaining all personnel during this period while at the same time positioning the organisation for further growth. Fred grew up and has spent the majority of his life in remote and regional Australia, is part owner and Managing Director and CEO of Sea Swift, has held various Board positions, and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Our Staff



Danielle Carey – Chief Executive Officer

Danielle returned to Cairns in 2015 to address skills gaps affecting regional economic and business growth in FNQ for the Department of Education and Training. Prior to this she managed Townsville Enterprise’s North Queensland Emerging Leaders Program to drive the future development of the Townsville region. Before returning to North Queensland, Danielle managed Study Brisbane, developing initiatives to increase Brisbane’s international student enrolment numbers and improve the international student experience. She also facilitated international relations and multicultural partnerships to generate economic development and create business opportunities for Brisbane on behalf of the Lord Mayor’s office. More recently, Danielle addressed the challenges of economic growth and industry diversification in FNQ for Advance Cairns, was a Study Cairns Executive Board member and sat on the Skilling Cassowary Coast and Workforce North committees.



Lainie Poon – Office Manager

Lainie joins the team as an experienced administration and client-focused professional into the position of Office Manager. Skilled in customer service, sales, management, business development, relationship building and social media, she brings a wide range of skills and experience to the RDA office. Most recently in her career as a Finance Broker, she was recognised as a finalist in 2017 and 2018 in the national ‘Women in Finance’ Awards for the development and delivery of the ‘Creating Wealthy Women’ finance seminar. She has extensive work experience across a wide range of industries including self-employment, hospitality, travel, tourism, sport and finance and is looking forward to increasing her knowledge of the projects and economic development in our region. In addition, Lainie also held a Board Member position with the Cairns Business Women’s Club in 2018 and was responsible for sponsorship and event management. Lainie replaces Emily Uljar who commenced in August 2018 and left the organisation in January 2019.

RDA employed the following consultants/contractors to carry out communications, bookkeeping, administration and project work:

- Rachel Burgess, Bookkeeping
- Meryl Slater, Marketing and Communications
- Rhiannon Simcocks (Kleinhardt), Project Research and Development
- Kim Ehrlich, Temporary Office Management
- Anne Clarke, Project Consultant
- Kim Forde (The Missing Link), Environmental Consultant
- BDO (Nth Qld) - Cairns, Auditors

Strategic Context

The Far North Queensland and Torres Strait region has a total area of 273,157.4 square kilometres accounting for 16% of Queensland's land mass and encompasses 21 local government shires and regions:

- Aurukun Shire Council
- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Cook Shire Council
- Croydon Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
- Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Torres Shire Council
- Torres Strait Islands Regional Council
- Weipa Town Authority
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council



The region experiences a summer monsoon (wet season) from November to April, followed by a lower rainfall winter and early summer dry season, May to October, is home to two World Heritage listed areas - the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics rainforest and is the only region to have an international border.

Far North Queensland has an estimated resident population of approximately 287,000 people (2017) which is expected to reach 362,000 by 2036. (Trade and Investment Queensland). It boasts one of the highest indigenous populations in the country at about 14%, or 57,929 people belonging to more than 60 Traditional Owner groups. The region has experienced an average annual growth rate of 1.3% over ten years with the population expected to grow to over 378,000 by the year 2041 (ABS 3218.0, Regional Population Growth, Australia, various editions).

The Far North Queensland region is the largest and fastest growing area in Northern Australia, with the highest number of registered businesses and the greatest number of people employed within the marine and aviation sectors. (FNQROC Economic Profile 2019). Unemployment is decreasing across the region with Cairns experiencing its lowest unemployment rate on record; employment growth was at 7.1% in March 2019 (Conus June 2019).

Key regional industries include tourism, agriculture, mining, health, education, marine, aviation and construction and Gross Regional Product (GRP) is estimated at \$14.5 billion (National Institute of Economic and Industry Research 2016).

Major infrastructure in Far North Queensland includes:

- Cairns International Airport
- Two major universities – James Cook University and Central Queensland University
- National and state highway system
- Nine ports
- Cairns Convention Centre
- Freight and passenger rail services

2018/19 Outcomes

Outcome Theme 1:

Increased economic opportunities and investment in Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait region

Output: Identify economic development opportunities that leverage private and public sector investment in Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait.

Outcome Theme 2:

Increased trade and job creation.

Output: Connect Far North Queensland and Torres Strait with industry sectors, international trade partners, financial markets, regional entrepreneurs and business leaders to attract investors to explore new opportunities to grow local jobs in the region.

Outcome Theme 3:

Cooperative effort with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders leads to improved economic development outcomes.

Output: Develop and maintain positive, collaborative, working relationships and partnerships with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders which address identified gaps or needs in economic development activity.

Outcome Theme 4:

Achieve Government program objectives.

Output: Assist in the delivery of Commonwealth programs including public and private sector decentralisation.

Outcome Theme 5:

Maximise access to Government programs and grants.

Output: Promote and disseminate information on Commonwealth policies and grant programs and support community stakeholders in Far North Queensland and Torres Strait to develop project proposals to access funding.

Outcome Theme 6:

Advice supports development outcomes.

Output: For the Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Region:

- 1. Provide evidence-based advice to the Commonwealth on critical regional development issues*
- 2. Provide information on regional activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors.*

Achievements

RDA Major Projects

Lakeland Irrigation Scheme

Delivered the feasibility study and achieved a \$10m funding commitment from the Federal Government to advance the Lakeland Irrigation Scheme to a 'shovel-ready stage'



The Lakeland Irrigation Area (LIA) is an agricultural area originally developed in the late 1960's. The project included land clearing and development of agricultural areas and a small township (Lakeland). Over time, several agricultural activities have occurred in the area and this diversification has continued in recent years with bananas, melons and other crops being tried.

Sustainable agriculture requires a reliable and secure water supply. Water for agriculture in this area is currently provided by a combination of farm dams and groundwater. It has been recognised that the area has further potential for both agricultural and service centre development, but this is reliant on improving water supply reliability and security.

There is presently over 6,000 ha under cropping on freehold land in the Lakeland basin and no further tree clearing is required to achieve maximum utilisation of identified arable land. There is potential for a further 10,000 ha of downstream grazing land to benefit from fodder production.

In 2017, Cape York Sustainable Futures (CYSF) received \$825,000 (ex GST) to undertake the Lakelands Irrigation Area feasibility study to explore, identify and assess all aspects of expanding and improving agriculture in the LIA. The LIA feasibility study was part of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF), an initiative of the Australian Government. CYSF engaged SMEC and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) to undertake a Water Feasibility Assessment.

DNRME and CYSF were parties to a grant deed for the feasibility study called the 'Lakeland Irrigation Area' (Lakelands Grant Deed).

Following the closure of CYSF in 2018, RDA entered into an agreement on 9 November 2018 to the draft and final Strategic Business Case.

SMEC delivered the [Lakeland Irrigation Area Report](#) on 28 February 2019. Of the four options considered, it was concluded the most favourable is to construct a dam on the Palmer River. The Palmer River flows west to the Mitchell catchment and into the Gulf of Carpentaria. It has been highly degraded by mining over the past century and, being westerly flowing, will leave no impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

Should the project proceed, water will be pumped from the dam to the top of the Byerstown Range to a holding dam where it will be gravity fed through a hydro plant and distributed to growers by a pipe system. The hydro plant will power the pumps.

Key features of the project:

- 200,000 ML dam
- 80,000ML pa yield
- 8,000 ha high value crops (16,000 ha indirect)
- 1000 construction jobs
- 1200 FTE on completion

Benefits to the region include:

- Access to a reliable and affordable water supply capable of supporting a majority of soils suitable to horticulture and broadacre cropping in the Lakeland Irrigation Area region
- Increased volume of water available for agriculture
- Ability to grow higher value and more diverse range crops in suitable areas
- Improved confidence of irrigators to invest in long term business operations
- Benefits to regional business activity and prosperity through increased agricultural activity and the creation of 1000 construction jobs followed by 1200 FTE positions on completion

RDA publicly released the feasibility study at the Lakeland Community Hall on 10 April 2019 to a room of approximately 50 interested parties.

On 7 March 2019 RDA met with Senator Matt Canavan and the Hon Warren Entsch MP to discuss the feasibility study and the possible progression of the project. This was followed by a meeting with the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Senator Canavan in Brisbane on 26 March 2019.

These meetings resulted in the 28 April 2019 announcement in Cairns of \$10 million in funding to get the project “shovel ready”, by the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Senator Matt Canavan and the Hon Warren Entsch MP.

On 12 June 2019, RDA held a second public engagement meeting in Lakeland regarding the outcome of the funding announcement with growers and landholders in the area. Engagement with the Traditional Owners of the area planned.

Irrigation Scheme

FOLLOWING the closure of Cape York Sustainable Futures, Rural Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait has entered into a contract with the Queensland State Government to deliver final Milestones 4 and 5 (the draft and final strategic business case) of the Lakeland Irrigation Scheme. Once complete, the project will provide a 195GL storage dam within the Palmer River, irrigation systems, transportation and power generation to support the expansion of irrigated agriculture within the Lakeland Irrigation Area as well as hundreds of jobs for the region.

Cairns Post 15 January 2019



PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE LAKELAND IRRIGATION SCHEME FEASIBILITY REPORT IN LAKELAND

RDA has since met with and sent correspondence to all relevant State and Federal Ministers providing information about the project and seeking their support and entered into conversations with the Department of Infrastructure regarding its possible progression.



LAKELAND IRRIGATION SCHEME \$10M FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Hon Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt, Cr Peter Scott, Cook Shire Mayor, Frank Beveridge, LNP Candidate for Kennedy, The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Matt Canavan, David Kempton, RDA Chair

Compost for a Farming Future

Received \$750,000 in funding from the Federal Government to assess the benefits of using compost in agriculture to determine the viability of production on a commercial scale.

Far Northern Queensland regional growers experience challenges with water usage, soil quality, agricultural output and run-off to the Great Barrier Reef. Local banana farmer and owner of Shark Recyclers, Peter Inderbitzin discovered using compost, (created from green-waste stock piles at Cairns Regional Council transfer station) resulted in a 60% reduction in use of chemical fertiliser, 35% increase in production, a 9-fold increase in organic matter, a 19% saving in energy cost and a 30% reduction in water consumption.



Shark Recycling Composting Facility in Bibbohra

RDA approached the Hon Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt with these results and requested funding for formal analysis of the Inderbitzin data and undertake research into the viability of large-scale production of green-waste compost for commercial use in agriculture along the East coast of Queensland in Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Bundaberg.

In March 2018, the Hon David Littleproud MP announced \$750,000 for RDA to deliver the project.



COMPOST FOR A FARMING FUTURE PROJECT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Grant Stanley, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) CQU, Paul Inderbitzin, Shark Recyclers, The Hon David Littleproud MP, Peter Inderbitzin, Shark Recyclers, David Kempton, RDA Chair

On 15 May 2019 Central Queensland University was engaged to undertake independent analysis of the data generated from the Inderbitzin banana farms that have established management practices that incorporate the use of compost. The analysis will determine environmental and productivity benefits and extrapolate all relevant data to give the project a regional context (Phase I).

Fertile compost study

A FEASIBILITY study into the production of green-waste compost for commercial use in agriculture has been approved by the Federal Government.

Agriculture Minister David Littleproud has awarded Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait \$750,000 over the next three years to undertake research/analysis and a feasibility study into the compost project.

"This project has the potential to provide substantial benefits to growers while reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and sediment runoff to the Great Barrier Reef", said RDA

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POTENTIAL: David Kempton, of Regional Development Australia

chairman David Kempton.

He said more than 10 years ago, Lakeland banana farmer Peter Inderbitzin began composting green waste from his farms to supplement chemical

fertiliser use and improve the soil. He was awarded the 2018 Charlie Natasi Horticultural Farmer of the year award by the Mareeba and District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

"It has since become evident that the use of compost has a much wider application as the benefits have far exceeded initial expectations," Mr Kempton said.

After 10 years the results indicated a 60 per cent reduction in use of chemical fertiliser, 35 per cent increase in production, a nine-fold increase in organic matter, 19 per cent saving in energy cost and 30 per cent reduction in water consumption.

Cairns Post 5 February 2019

RDA released a public expression of interest on 7 May 2019 for a consultant/ organisation to undertake Phase II – to determine if the Inderbitzin model can be repeated along the east coast of Queensland. This is to be delivered as a feasibility /business case and will involve a report covering such factors as areas under cultivation, use of chemical fertiliser, availability of green waste, transport constraints, current practices including organic waste in landfill, landfill sites, regulatory requirements, stakeholders, consumer support, government (all levels) involvement, funding options private/public participation.

Due to the number and wide variety of responses received, a decision was made to undertake a closed tender process available only to those who made a submission. Tenders will be released 16 September 2019.

RDA Projects & Activities

RDA Taskforce

Creating a single vision and providing a united voice in regional decision making

The RDA Taskforce brings regional government and economic development stakeholders together to engage and find collaborative solutions to regional issues and leverage opportunities. Initial Taskforce meetings saw regional economic development agencies, local, state and federal government representatives and Cairns Marine sector stakeholders work together to devise the best way forward for the proposed construction of a common use facility (CUF) within the Cairns Marine Precinct.

Project Assessment Tool

Quadruple bottom line project assessment

RDA is currently designing a Project Assessment Tool (PAT) to plot the feasibility of a project against its economic, environmental, cultural and social factors. This tool will assist in determining whether a project should proceed, receive support and/or funding and if so, to what level.

Silage: Keeping Value in the Herd

Mitigating the effects of drought through silage

Still in the scoping phase, the RDA Silage: Keeping Value in the Herd project will assist graziers to preserve their stock during events of severe drought, fire and flood through the growing and storing of silage.

In-region Committee Meetings

As the RDA Committee is not representative of the region, it was decided at least two Committee meetings per year be held outside of the Cairns City area to increase its engagement across the region and “for members to experience the region first-hand and consider ‘big picture’, long-term goals and how RDA can assist” (David Kempton, Chair).



RDA COOKTOWN COMMITTEE MEETING

The RDA Committee and staff pictured with Cook Shire Mayor, Cr Peter Scott and representatives of Cook Shire, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire and Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Councils.

This was achieved with the help of “capacity building” funding provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development in January 2019.

The RDA committee met at the Cook Shire Council Chambers (Cooktown) in April 2019. Cook Shire was chosen due to the organisation's work relating to the Cape York Regional Package (Peninsular Development Road) and agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to undertake milestones four and five of the Lakelands Irrigation Area project. The neighbouring Aboriginal Shire Councils of Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale also attended and joined Cook Shire Council in providing presentations about the challenges and opportunities facing their regions.

The Committee attended the RDA public release of the Lakeland Irrigation Area Report at the Lakeland Community Centre and toured Red Valley Farms, an innovative, family-owned operation that supplies bananas year round.



The RDA Board with community stakeholders.

Talking regional development in the Torres Strait

By Aaron Smith

FORMER Member for Cook David Kempton (right) says his term in politics is what got him his current position as Chair of The Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait Regional Development Australia Committee.



Speaking on Thursday Island: "I've been active in this whole region most of my working life, right throughout the region and this was a great opportunity that I hadn't really considered before.

"But when it came along I grabbed it, and it's great to be back in the Torres Strait after five years," Mr Kempton, who served in the Campbell Newsman Government, said.

Mr Kempton has been in the role for 12 months.

Mr Kempton's committee is one of 55 across Australia made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development of their regions.

It brings together all levels of government to support the development of regional Australia and is administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

"Our charter is to promote regional development and Torres Strait has been in our region for 10 years but we've had no presence up here at all," he said.

"I see the same sorts of issues have not been properly addressed, so this is an opportunity as a non-political organisation that has some integrity to bring some of that conversation to the forum."

Mr Kempton said the board will be talking to both government and industry in trying to

improve outcomes.

"So we brought the board up to have some interaction with the community and try and get the whole of the issues across the Torres Strait into the arena.

"We talked specifically about some of the long term plans that the TSRA and the councils have and we talked also about specific projects.

"We are also interested in talking about the transfer of the delivery of service and other instrumentalities into the local economy, such as in the areas of Border Force, infrastructure delivery and maintenance that are done by outside agencies that could be done here.

"Obviously you've got to get the capabilities up but the problem we have right now is the way the funding is allocate, it's always short-term so you can get capacity built in the community or in people then the funding dries up so they're back where they started.

"If we can get the continuity in those infrastructure delivery areas then people can start building expertise and then local people may become engineers or workers in specific areas.

"So we really have to start with a long-term ambition to get the continuity in funding, the capacity to deliver and more autonomy

In May 2019, the Committee flew to the Torres Strait and held its meeting at the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Building on Thursday Island. After a blessing and welcome by Father Dalton Bon, TSRA presented their goals, challenges and infrastructure projects to the Committee. Presentations were also delivered by Tropical Tourism North Queensland's Torres Strait Community Tourism Coordinator regarding increasing tourism in the area and local business, Strait Support which is receiving mentoring from RDA.

During the visit, RDA also met with native title groups - Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council to discuss Indigenous economic opportunities and toured the island's infrastructure.



RDA THURSDAY ISLAND COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the RDA Committee and staff pictured with Father Tom Dalton and representatives of the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

NAIF Funding Workshop

Connecting FNQ proponents with NAIF Funding

RDA teamed with the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) in December to deliver a workshop to potential loan applicants with the aim of attracting more Far North Queensland projects to the scheme. Over 30 people attended the workshop with increased enquiries flowing through to Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF). The success of the workshop paved the way from a second workshop to be held in late 2019.

Projects Exposé

Showcasing FNQ's top five Regional Priority Projects to Government

RDA is coordinating a showcase of Far North Queensland's five key regional priorities to present to government ministers with the aim of attracting government support and funding. RDA brought together Far North Queensland Councils and economic/development agencies to determine and agree upon the priorities for the Exposé. This "working group" increased agency collaboration in Far North Queensland and highlighted the importance of using the same messaging when advocating for funding and the need for an agreed vision for the region.

Regional Photography Project

Showcasing the economic diversity, offering and opportunity of the Far North Queensland and Torres Strait region.

RDA undertook an expression of interest process to select a suitably qualified photographer to capture the Far North Queensland and Torres Strait region in terms of its people and economic drivers (industry, business, lifestyle, regionality, infrastructure and development, etc.) over a three month period. 12 submissions were received. The purpose of the project is to obtain a variety of quality images that will be used to promote the region in a variety of mediums. Expressions of Interest closed 12 June 2019 with Michael Petersen Photography being chosen as the preferred supplier.

Collaborative Projects

Cape York Region Package (CYRP)

Providing improved access to Cape York for freight, tourists and other road users, improved safety, reduced ongoing road maintenance costs, improved community infrastructure, and employment, training and business development opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

RDA co-chaired and provided secretariat services for the Cape York Region Package Sub Working Group and Taskforce meetings to build and promote good outcomes from the \$215.5 million program of works to progressively extend the seal on the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) between Lakeland and Weipa over 4 years; \$10 million over 4 years for sealing works on the remaining gravel sections of Endeavour Valley Road through to Hope Vale; \$50.5 million for priority community infrastructure works identified by the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) for projects that upgrade and improve infrastructure such as roads, barge and boat ramps, water and sewerage.

The CYRP Stage 1 generated \$12,655,255 worth of local industry participation, \$8,920,351 worth of Indigenous economic opportunities plus 19,463 hrs of Indigenous employment and training.

Far North Queensland Trade and Investment Group (FNQ TIG)

Developing initiatives to support greater trade and investment outcomes and collaboration across Far North Queensland

Co-chaired by Trade & Investment Queensland (TIQ) and RDA, the FNQ TIG has a membership of local government, representative agencies from state government and organisations with a significant interest in trade and investment, such as Tradelinked PNG, Cairns Regional Council, Advance Cairns and Superyachts Great Barrier Reef.

Since the appointment of a new State Government Principal Trade & Investment Officer, RDA and TIQ have been working to reinvigorate and refocus the taskforce to get participants thinking about what the region needs to do to become more attractive to investors. Work has also begun on regional capability statements, improvements to the relevancy of the TIQ website and an FNQ projects directory to map the existence and projects of possible projects of interest to investors.

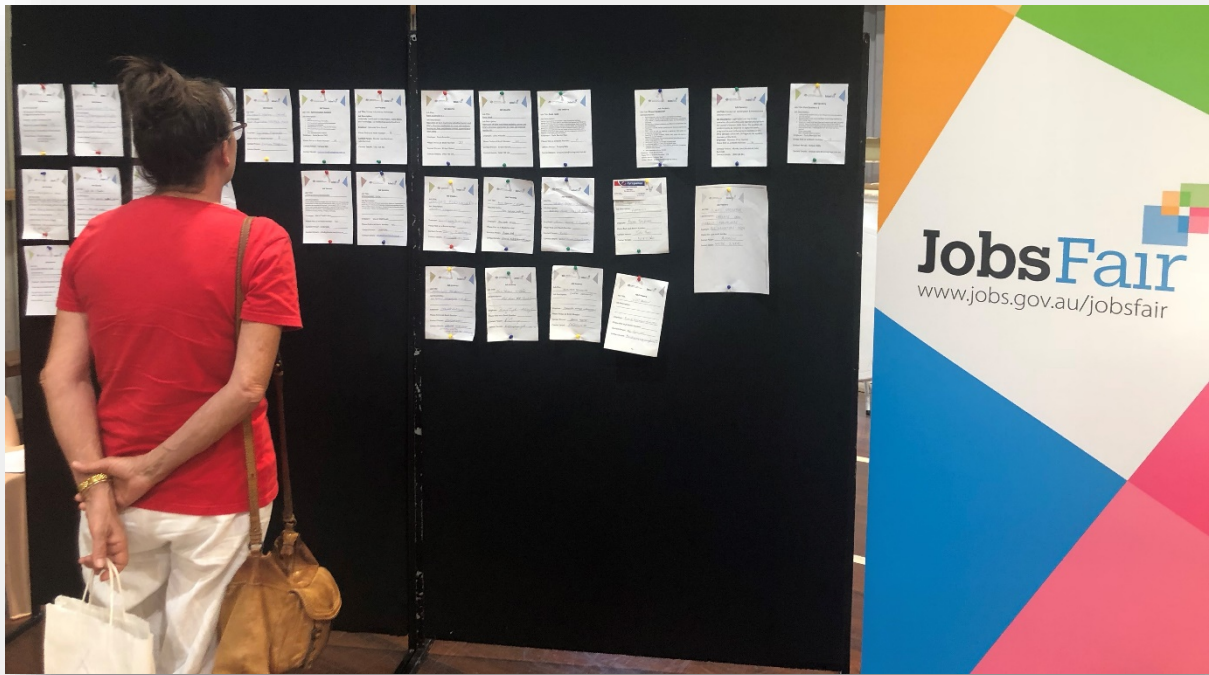
Employment

Jobs Growth and Workforce Development

RDA assisted in the growth of regional workforce capability through ongoing collaboration with the Australian Government's North Queensland Employment Facilitator and Chair of Workforce North and the inclusion of Jobs Qld Board member and Chair of My Pathway (education, training and employment services provider) on the RDA Committee.

We lent our support to the Mareeba Jobs Fair which saw 251 people attend over the 4 hours and 38 jobs made available for locals from local employers. This led to the hosting of the Cairns Jobs Fair which saw 1267 through the door, 483 jobs on offer (+ 200 promoted for early 2020), 33 booths – 16 employer booths representing 30 individual employers.

RDA also assisted V&V International with relevant export, training and employment provider connections to further the progress of their Integrated Smart Farm Strategy for North Queensland, a 40ha greenhouse project to be built in Mareeba, capitalising on Far North Queensland's proximity to Asia, port availability and international flight schedule from Cairns.



The Jobs Board at the Mareeba Jobs Fair

Joint Advocacy & Engagement

Mossman Mill

Achieved a \$20m funding commitment to support the Mossman Mill Transition Project

RDA offered its assistance to FNQ Milling following a presentation to the board on 9 October 2018. This resulted in joint advocacy efforts with FNQ Milling and FNQ Growers to gain the necessary funding and support to preserve the mill and establish a bio-precinct.

Our combined advocacy assisted in FNQ Milling achieving a Government Commitment of \$20m preserving over 564 existing jobs and 380 businesses which service the mill. Once complete, the bio-precinct will lead the way for the Australian Sugar Industry to review its dependence on raw sugar export and allow better returns for both growers and millers.

It is estimated that the Precinct will create 86 new long term jobs, \$80 Million per annum in industry generated revenue, with a proposed value adding of \$150M per annum.



MOSSMAN MILL FUNDING ADVOCACY

David Kempton, RDA Chair, Maryann Salvetti, FNQ Milling Chair, Danielle Carey, RDA CEO, Joe Moro, FNQ Growers President

Cairns Convoy to Canberra

Large Scale Regional Advocacy

RDA assisted with and participated in a delegation of 51 people representing 11 industry sectors to Parliament House to take part in meetings with relevant Federal Government ministers to advance regional development in Far North Queensland.

Convoy advocacy assisted in achieving a renewed emphasis on the Southwest Pacific, particularly in the Defence space, Shadow Climate Change and Energy Minister Mark Butler hosting a round table in Cairns, Shadow Defence Minister Richard Marles' visit to the city's three slipways, contribution to the Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre and \$60m for the Cairns University Hospital project.

Regional Export Distribution Centre

EOI input to attract \$10m in State Government Funding

RDA assisted with the expression of interest to attract \$10m in Queensland State Government funding to construct an agricultural export distribution centre at Cairns Airport. The successful expression of interest advanced Cairns Airport to the next stage of the grant funding - the creation of a Business Case (undertaken by PWC), with input provided by RDA, putting Cairns Airport in direct competition with Wellcamp Airport in Toowoomba. The final decision is pending.

Bid for export hub grant

REGIONAL Development Australia Far North Queensland & Torres Strait is working with Cairns Regional Council and a team of stakeholders to apply for a \$10 million Queensland State Government grant to establish a Regional Export Distribution Centre at the Cairns Airport.

The export centre aims to boost access of agricultural produce to key international markets and grow jobs in surrounding regional areas.

"Capitalising on Queensland's global reputation as a leader in the production and processing of quality agricultural products, this initiative seeks to catalyse the develop-



MORE JOBS: Cameron Dick.

ment of high-value farming and processing and grow regional job creation," RDA FNQ & TS chairman, David Kempton said.

Since registrations for the pilot project opened in May, more than 30 regional com-

munities and businesses have registered interest in hosting the \$10 million produce export distribution centre.

Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick said regional agricultural produce proposed to be exported from the centre ranged from beef, fresh fruit and vegetables, seafood through to dairy products and even bush tucker.

"The export centre will create regional jobs and enhance productivity, capitalising on our global reputation as a leader in the production and processing of quality agricultural produce," he said.

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Cairns Post 24th October 2018

Hope Vale 2023 Forum

Developing a Strategy for Economic Sustainability

The Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2018-2021 outlines six themes for economic sustainability. RDA participated in a forum to assist HVSC identify projects, influence change and deliver responsive services through building collaborative partnerships with government, agencies and organisations, building capability, improving service delivery and outcomes, and the lives of its residents. In particular, providing advice, contacts and connections for Hope Vale Shire Councillors and staff.

Providing Access to Government Programmes

Assisted over 160 organisations to connect to government programs

RDA regularly promoted and disseminated Commonwealth programs and funding opportunities via its marketing/media channels and via reports to its stakeholder networks.

Building Better Regions Fund Round 3

The \$841.6 million Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities.

The fund invests in projects located in or benefiting eligible areas outside the major capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra. Grant funding is available through two funding streams:

- The Infrastructure Projects Stream: Supports projects that involve construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure
- The Community Investments Stream: Funds community development activities including, but not limited to, new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, leadership and capability building activities

RDA promoted the grant via its channels, assisted with enquiries, grant applications and provided letters of support for applicable projects across the region.

Six Far North Queensland projects totalling \$466,436 in value were successful in receiving BBRF Round 3 funding in Far North Queensland received \$344,802 in funding:

- Tablelands Regional Council - Tablelands Smart Community Strategy
- Tablelands Regional Council - Tablelands Tourism Strategy
- Babinda-Cairns Regional Council - Youth Urban Art Project - Pride of Place
- Cairns City - Centacare FNQ - Building Our Community Conference
- Cooktown - Cook Shire Council - Cooktown 2020 Festival - Festival Hub Main Stage
- Silky Oak - Brettacorp Inc. - North of the Tully - Economy and Environment.

ASBAS Digital Solutions Programs

The Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) Digital Solutions Qld program delivers low cost, high quality, digital advisory services to small businesses, to help increase their online presence and compete in a digital world.

RDA connected 111 small businesses with workshops, webinars and one-on-one consultations, assisted in the engagement of workshop facilitators, providing venues and the promotion and delivery of the program throughout the region (in a collaborative arrangement with RDA Brisbane, which is contracted to deliver the program throughout Queensland).

Providing Advice to Government

Advice supports development outcomes.

RDA has provided feedback government via

- the Office of the Chief Economist regarding the impact of the Northern Australia Whitepaper in Far North Queensland; and
- participated in the Department of Treasury's Regional Engagement Forum to broaden Treasury staff's perspective regarding how the economic policies they design affect regional economies, as well as learning about the economic opportunities and challenges faced by our region.

We informed Government ministers about the RDA and RDA programs, Far North Queensland's regional priorities and the opportunities and challenges facing the region such as water availability and security, the need for appropriate infrastructure and industry, environmental and agricultural matters, and workforce issues.

Our Stakeholders

- Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ)
- Construction Skills Queensland
- Ports North
- Advance Cairns
- Cairns Chamber of Commerce
- Enterprise North
- Study Cairns
- Superyacht Group Great Barrier Reef
- North Qld Land Council
- GBK Traditional Owner Group
- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Cook Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQ ROC)
- Torres & Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (TCICA)
- Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)
- Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure & Planning
- Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Trade & Investment Qld
- Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility
- Austrade
- Department of Agriculture & Water Resources
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Canegrowers
- Central Qld University (CQU)
- Workforce North
- RDA Taskforce
- AusIndustry
- Department of State Development Infrastructure & Planning
- James Cook University
- Department of Premier & Cabinet

Audited Financial Statements



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**



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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

The Committee has determined that Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Committee of Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc declare that:

1. The financial statements, comprising the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of changes in equity, and accompanying notes, present fairly the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) 1981, and;
2. In the Committees' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

David Kempton - Chair

Carolyn Eagle - Treasurer

Caïms, Dated this 13 August 2019.



**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	2	773,486	329,398
General and administrative expenses:		(98,978)	(84,781)
Stakeholder engagement		(5,843)	(9,898)
Consultants		(403,668)	(16,854)
Depreciation		(5,424)	(6,892)
Employee benefits		(199,649)	(199,396)
Accounting and audit fees		(21,469)	(16,685)
Other expenses		(3,003)	(1,292)
Surplus (deficit) before income tax		35,452	(6,400)
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus (deficit) for the year		35,452	(6,400)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		35,452	(6,400)



**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Accumulated surplus \$	Total \$
At 30 June 2017	24,963	24,963
Total comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(6,400)	(6,400)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(6,400)	(6,400)
At 30 June 2018	18,563	18,563
Total comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	35,452	35,452
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	35,452	35,452
At 30 June 2019	54,015	54,015



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		878,991	132,223
Trade and other receivables	3	2,410	14,928
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		881,401	147,151
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	4	27,806	15,047
Work in Progress		27,520	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		55,326	15,047
TOTAL ASSETS		936,727	162,198
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	882,712	143,635
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		882,712	143,635
TOTAL LIABILITIES		882,712	143,635
NET ASSETS		54,015	18,563
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		54,015	18,563
TOTAL EQUITY		54,015	18,563

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		1,454,797	371,148
Interest received		2,242	1,422
Payments to suppliers and employees		(663,871)	(370,745)
Interest expense		-	(21)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	7	<u>793,168</u>	<u>1,804</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds/(loss) from the sale of plant and equipment		400	-
Purchase of plant and equipment		(46,800)	(491)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(46,400)</u>	<u>(491)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		746,768	1,313
Cash at beginning of financial year		<u>132,223</u>	<u>130,910</u>
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>878,991</u>	<u>132,223</u>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc for the period ended 30 June 2019 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the committee members on the date the management committee's statement was signed and covers Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc as an individual entity as required by the *Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) 1981*. Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc is a not-for-profit entity for the purposes of preparing these financial statements.

The financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars.

The Association was incorporated on the 24th of December 2009 in Australia.

The address of the place of business is:

Suite 12A, 12-14 Lake Street

Cairns

a) Basis of Preparation

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) 1981*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 110 Events after the End of the Reporting Period
- AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards.

No other Australian Accounting Standards and authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial statements do not comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. They have been prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the prior year.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

b) Income Tax

The Association is considered to be exempt from income tax under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Accordingly, no provision for tax has been made in these financial statements.

c) Plant and Equipment

All plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and are depreciated over their useful lives on a straight line basis. Gains and losses on disposals are calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the asset's carrying amount and are included in profit or loss in the year that the item is derecognised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all plant and equipment. Depreciation commences from the time the asset is available for its intended use and is calculated on a straight line basis.

The useful lives used for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

Plant and equipment	20% - 33%
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d) Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity assesses whether there is any indication that individual assets are impaired. Where impairment indicators exist, recoverable amount is determined and impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss where the asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purpose of assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

e) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

f) Trade Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at original invoice amounts less an allowance for uncollectible amounts and have repayment terms between 30 and 90 days. Collectability of trade receivables is assessed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g) Revenue

Grants from the government are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the entity will comply with all the attached conditions.

The amount of grant funds received which have not been fully expended at the balance date are recorded as a liability in the financial statements.

Other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established. All revenue is stated net of the amount of any applicable Goods and Services Tax (GST).

h) Trade and Other Creditors

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. They are recognised at original invoice amounts.

i) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

j) New, Revised or Amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations Adopted

The entity has adopted all of the new, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are mandatory for the current reporting period. The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the entity.



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
NOTE 2: REVENUE		
Grant income	<u>772,299</u>	<u>327,302</u>
	772,299	327,302
Other Income	<u>1,187</u>	<u>2,096</u>
	<u>773,486</u>	<u>329,398</u>
NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade receivables	400	-
GST receivable	-	6,505
Prepayments & sundry debtors	<u>2,010</u>	<u>8,423</u>
	<u>2,410</u>	<u>14,928</u>
NOTE 4: PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	66,413	49,987
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(38,607)</u>	<u>(34,940)</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>27,806</u>	<u>15,047</u>
Written down value at 1 July 2018	15,047	
Additions	19,279	
Depreciation	(3,668)	
Disposals	<u>(2,852)</u>	
Written down value at 30 June 2019	<u>27,806</u>	



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 5: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade creditors and accruals	120,827	17,610
Unexpended grant funds	688,477	103,663
Employee benefits	16,997	6,182
GST payable	46,906	-
PAYG payable	9,505	14,639
Visa payable	-	1,541
	<u>882,712</u>	<u>143,635</u>

NOTE 6: RELATED PARTIES

Committee Members

The following members held office during the year:

David Kempton (Chair)
Brett Moller (Deputy Chair/Secretary)
Carolyn Eagle (Treasurer)
Scott Davis
Jodie Duignan-George
Robin Giazon
Julie-Ann Lambourne
Guiespe (Joe) Moro
Bill Shannon
Fred White

Ben Tooth (Treasurer - term expired 17 July 2018)
Joann Schmider (term expired 17 July 2018)
Julia Leu (term expired 17 July 2018)
Keith Noble (term expired 17 July 2018)
Lara Wilde (term expired 17 July 2018)
Peter Scott (term expired 17 July 2018)
Susan Darby (term expired 17 July 2018)
Yen Loban (term expired 17 July 2018)

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
NOTE 7: CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
<i>Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with deficit after income tax</i>		
Surplus (Deficit) after income tax	35,452	(6,400)
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit/loss:		
- Depreciation	5,424	6,892
- Gain on disposal of assets	697	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- Trade and other receivables	12,518	(8,523)
- Trade and other payables	739,077	9,835
	<u>793,168</u>	<u>1,804</u>



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AUSTRALIA

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY GREG MITCHELL TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND AND TORRES STRAIT
INC**

As lead auditor of Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc for the year ended 30 June 2019, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Greg Mitchel

Director

BDO Audit (NTH QLD) Pty Ltd

Cairns, 16 August 2019

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait
Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the management committee's statement.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter - Basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Entity to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) 1981. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) 1981 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair

presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO

BDO Audit (NTH QLD) Pty Ltd



Greg Mitchell

Director

Cairns, 16 August 2019



Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Income			
Grants B/F		103,663	59,817
Grant income		1,357,113	371,148
Sundry income		(1,056)	674
Unexpended Grants trf to BS		(688,477)	(103,663)
Total income		771,243	327,976
Expenses			
Capital expenditure		46,798	491
Professional development & training		2,927	2,134
Stakeholder engagement		5,843	9,898
Admin fees		-	138
Office supplies		2,323	2,239
Travel		35,297	17,154
Information technology		7,269	5,509
Telephone		2,907	3,524
Insurance		2,542	1,443
Repairs & maintenance		1,688	1,456
Postage		215	-
Advertising & publicity		2,992	10,945
Marketing materials		195	207
Consultants		129,068	13,104
Projects		274,600	3,750
Accounting & Audit fees		21,468	16,685
Bank charges		36	(34)
Memberships & subscriptions		11,564	4,084
Committee activities		713	575
RDA committee meeting costs		5,285	11,555
Reimbursables		-	7
Superannuation		16,217	17,615
Wages & salaries		172,618	212,194
Leave entitlements		10,815	(30,413)
Workers compensation insurance		1,555	1,265
Other employer expenses		1,449	-
Rent		21,269	22,224
Electricity		1,755	1,627
		779,408	329,376
Results from operating activities		(8,165)	(1,400)
Continued			



Regional
Development
Australia

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND
AND TORRES STRAIT INC

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Continued			
Finance income		2,243	1,401
Net finance expenses		<u>2,243</u>	<u>1,401</u>
Capital expenditure transferred to non-current assets		46,798	491
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(5,424)	(6,892)
Net surplus/(deficit) before income tax		35,452	(6,400)
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(b)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u><u>35,452</u></u>	<u><u>(6,400)</u></u>



Job Project Summary
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Job/Project Name	Opening Balance \$	Grant Income \$	Other Income \$	Total Income \$	Expenditure \$	Closing Balance \$
Operations 19-100	103,663	377,795	487	481,945	(404,937)	77,008
Lakeland Feasibility 19-200	-	297,500	-	297,500	(303,423)	(5,923)
Compost Utilisation 19-300	-	681,818	699	682,517	(71,048)	611,469
Total	103,663	1,357,113	1,186	1,461,962	(779,408)	682,554



Operations for 2019 (Job 19-100)
Profit & Loss for year ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$
Income		
Grants B/F		103,663
Grant income		377,795
Sundry income		487
Total income		481,945
Expenses		
Capital expenditure		46,798
Professional development & training		2,927
Stakeholder engagement		5,449
Office supplies		2,281
Travel		35,297
Information technology		7,269
Telephone		2,907
Insurance		2,542
Repairs & maintenance		1,688
Postage		184
Advertising & publicity		126
Marketing materials		195
Consultants		32,530
Accounting fees		14,413
Audit fees		7,055
Bank charges		36
Memberships & subscriptions		11,564
Committee activities		713
RDA committee meeting costs		5,285
Superannuation		16,217
Wages & salaries		172,617
Leave entitlements		10,815
Staff amenities		829
Workers compensation insurance		1,555
Other employer expenses		621
Rent		21,269
Electricity		1,755
Total Expense		404,937
Net profit/(loss)		77,008

Lakeland Feasibility for 2019 (Job 19-200)
Profit & Loss for year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$
Income	
Grant income	<u>297,500</u>
Total income	297,500
Expenses	
Stakeholder engagement	393
Office supplies	43
Postage	31
Consultants	28,356
Projects	<u>274,600</u>
Total Expense	<u>303,423</u>
Net profit/(loss)	<u>(5,923)</u>

**Compost Utilisation Project for 2019 (Job 19-300)
Profit & Loss for year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019 \$
Income	
Grant income	681,818
Interest income	699
Total Income	<u>682,517</u>
Expenses	
Advertising & publicity	2,866
Consultants	68,182
Total Expense	<u>71,048</u>
Net profit/(loss)	<u>611,469</u>

Contact information



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