



AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Minutes

6 February 2017

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

Preface

When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Minutes for distribution they are in essence "Unconfirmed" until the following Avon Regional Organisation of Councils (AROC) Meeting, where the Minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Person.

Attachments that formed part of the Agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Meeting are incorporated into a separate attachment to these Minutes.

Unconfirmed Minutes

Chief Executive Officer
AROC Secretariat

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on ...3.4.2017...

Signed:*David A. Dow*.....

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

CONTENTS

MEETING HELD AT SHIRE OF TOODYAY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2017

1.	Declaration of Opening.....	1
2.	Presentations	1
2.1	RDA Wheatbelt - agenda.....	1
3.	Record of Attendance / Apologies.....	4
3.1	Apologies	4
4.	Confirmation of Minutes.....	4
4.1	Minutes of Meeting held on 5 December 2016	4
5.	Matters Arising.....	4
5.1	From the Minutes of the last AROC meeting.....	4
5.1.1	Shire of York.....	4
5.1.2	Tender Regional Recreation Plan.....	4
5.1.3	Steam Train Project	4
5.2	From the Action List.....	5
5.3.1	Dementia Care Unit – Goomalling	5
5.3.2	AROC Planning 2016/2017	6
6.	ITEMS OF BUSINESS.....	6
6.1	Financial Report.....	6
6.2	Productivity Commission - transitioning economies submission	7
7.	OTHER MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED	8
7.1	A Sheridan.....	8
7.1.1	Vehicle Licensing.....	8
7.2	D Metcalf.....	8
7.2.1	Annual Ratepayers meeting.....	8
8.	NEXT MEETING	8
9.	MEETING CLOSURE	8

ATTACHMENT *with separate index follows Item 9.*

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

Cr D Dow, Chairperson, declared the meeting open at 9.40am.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 RDA WHEATBELT - AGENDA

Date of Report:	1 February 2017
File Reference:	ICR42868
Author:	S Scott - CEO
Responsible Officer:	S Scott - CEO
Attachments:	1. RDA Wheatbelt correspondence.

PURPOSE

To discuss the following:

1. Brief on the role of RDAW;
2. Discussion on local issues that might have some Federal connection;
3. How we can best work together – communications – future meetings; and
4. Establishing a local government list of priority regional projects.

BACKGROUND

Refer to **Attachment 1**

OFFICER COMMENT

Mr Graham Cooper, RDA Wheatbelt Inc Chairman and Mrs Juliet Grist, RDA Wheatbelt Inc Executive Officer are going to be present to discuss the above. They requested to be able to meet with AROC and the discussion points listed have been requested by them.

Mr Cooper was provided with an electronic copy of the Action List and information pertaining to a review of AROC Planning for 2016/2017 (July 2016 AROC CEO meeting) as follows:

Issue	Themes	Progress
Health and Aged Care	Aged Care planning Independent living units	Aged Friendly Community Plans almost complete.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

Issue	Themes	Progress
	Age Friendly communities planning	Independent living units progressing. New grant application lodged
Strategic Waste Management	Regional Planning Regional strategies Advocacy	Revised Regional Waste Minimisation Plan completed
Councillor and Staff development	Training needs identification Training delivery in the region Regional Conference or workshop	Training Scheduled for delivery in Toodyay
Regional Risk	Risk Management processes Regional Risk Coordinator	New RRC in place and working well
Human resource management	Workforce Development Planning Specialised staff meetings Resource sharing Each Shire to prepare capability list	Program Responsibility to individual Shires Dowerin to arrange Rates Officer meeting
Information Technology	Joint strategies Resource sharing Insourcing IT support	Toodyay has IT Officer, no spare capacity.
Economic Development	Infrastructure development Explore Regional Subsidiary Regional Planning Engagement with WDC Regional promotion	Some engagement with WDC, limited other progress Engagement with Avon Tourism
Regional Governance	Review of governance models Regional subsidiary Infrastructure Trust	No Progress
Sport and Recreation	Develop Regional Recreation Strategy	Northam to prepare project brief
Regional Airport location	Support and advocacy for Cunderdin	No Progress

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

An overview of RDA Wheatbelt was provided as mentioned above.

Points raised as follows:

- RDA Focus on whole Wheatbelt;
- Improved standard of Business Cases;
- What priorities are and how outcomes can be achieved;
- RDA Annual Report & Strategic Plan:
<http://www.rdawheatbelt.com.au/publications/archive/item/rda-wheatbelt-annual-report-2015-16>
- Regional Projects achieve greater success;
- Federal Priorities project base:-
 - *NBN, Mobile Black Spot Funding (Stage II), Development of Digital Economy;*
 - *Transport;*
 - *Commodity Routes Funding (Heavy Haulage funding);*
 - *Grain Freight Routes Funding;*
 - *Infrastructure across whole Wheatbelt – cross benefits of routes to get to main distributors a good outcome;*
- Future of local government Roads: Impact of the loss of Tier 3 rail. Expectation to bring roads up to standard with no extra funding. Priority with State Support to link grain freight and direct transport routes. Aim: to work strongly with Road Groups to have agreed priority structure; and
- Provision packages for Aged Care going to individuals and not Aged Care Service Providers.

Questions were raised and responses given in respect to:

- *Process of Review and Scoring;*
- *Wheatbelt Development Commission blueprint priorities: Aged Care Service Delivery, Small Business Development and Aboriginal employment;*
- *RDA support of Roads to Recovery funding beyond 2019;*
- *Road funding major criteria beyond 2025;*
- *Lobbying priorities;*
- *Main Roads - Road List available and business case unwritten;*
- *Federal Priorities; and*
- *Funding and investment.*

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Members:

Cr D Dow	Shire President, Shire of Toodyay
Mr S Scott	CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Mr C Kerp	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr B Haywood	Shire President, Shire of Goomalling
Mr J Whiteaker	CEO, Shire of Northam
Cr S Pollard	Shire President, Shire of Northam
Cr J Williams	Deputy Delegate, Shire of Northam
Cr D Metcalf	Shire President, Shire of Dowerin
Mr A Sheridan	CEO, Shire of Chittering
Mrs G Teede	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains
Cr D Lovelock	Shire President, Shire of Victoria Plains

3.1 Apologies

Cr G Houston	Shire President, Shire of Chittering
Mrs A Selvey	CEO, Shire of Dowerin

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 5 December 2016

AROC RESOLUTION NO 01/02/17

MOVED: Cr Lovelock

SECONDED: Cr Metcalf

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 5 December 2016 be accepted as a true and correct record.

MOTION CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 From the Minutes of the last AROC meeting.

5.1.1 Shire of York

Communication but no response.

5.1.2 Tender Regional Recreation Plan

Submissions sent out in January 2017 and close next week.
Northam Shire to put together terms of reference.

5.1.3 Steam Train Project

Ongoing.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

5.2 From the Action List

The Action List was reviewed and revised.

5.3.1 Dementia Care Unit – Goomalling

Item not on the Action List at present.

Question was raised in respect to progress.

Points raised as follows:

- Goomalling put Dementia Village on the back burner for now as the priority from government seems to be development of these services in Northam through expansion of current services or creation of new services.
- Scale – difficult to do on a small scale and larger scales viable. Goomalling was planned to be a 30 bed facility to accommodate patients from Goomalling, Merredin, Dalwallinu and Moora;
- Government focus is to keep people at home longer, instead of moving to a nursing home;
- Local government opportunity to look at current Age Friendly Community Plans or create Dementia Friendly Community Plans;
- Establishing housing diversity so that persons moving from farming properties to town have centralised viable options closer to services;
- This issue to be added to the list provided to the RDA; and
- Seeking combined State and Federal Funding: Federal – GP's & Aged Care; State – medical services/hospitals.

Action:

1. CEO Goomalling to circulate to the AROC Group a copy of their unsuccessful proposal so it can then be escalated as a 'regional project'.
2. CEO Goomalling to liaise with the Department of Health to be undertaken to ensure there is no double-up with future strategic planning.
3. CEO Goomalling to invite the Department of Health representative to come have a chat with up-to-date statistics if possible as Verso stats may be out-of-date.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

5.3.2 AROC Planning 2016/2017

Points raised as follows:

- Education not listed – consideration to put on list so AROC can have some influence regionally and garner political support for our lobbying efforts.;
- Local Government Roads not listed - consideration to put on list so AROC can provide political support for future projects directly to Road Groups (and sub-groups) who are responsible for the actual lobbying and funding applications;

Action:

CEOs to consider at their meeting and bring a recommendation and report to AROC in April 2017.

6. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6.1 Financial Report

A copy of the financial report provided by the Shire of Northam was tabled at 11.21am.

MOTION/AROC RESOLUTION 02/02/17

MOVED: Cr S Pollard

SECONDED: Cr B Haywood

That the financial report as presented be received.

MOTION CARRIED

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

6.2 Productivity Commission - transitioning economies submission

Date of Report:	1 February 2017
File Reference:	ICR42868
Author:	S Scott - CEO
Responsible Officer:	S Scott - CEO
Attachments:	1. Email from WALGA; 2. Media Release; and 3. Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

To read the email from WALGA (**Attachment 1**) and provide feedback to WALGA by 10 February 2017.

BACKGROUND

Refer to **Attachment 2** for a Media Release and **Attachment 3** for Terms of Reference in relation to the study on the transition of regional economies following the resources boom.

OFFICER COMMENT

Joanne Burgess has requested feedback from AROC.

Dana Mason, WALGA Policy Manager (Economics) is keen to ensure that WALGA is able to provide a well-informed presentation to the Productivity Commission and via their submission.

One of the very important aspects to the presentation are examples of how communities are impacted following the resources boom.

WALGA is asking AROC to provide any examples to them that would inform their submission and presentation.

If there is not enough time during the AROC meeting to provide examples, they can be forwarded to aroc@toodyay.wa.gov.au by 9 Feb 2017 to enable time to collate all responses.

Points raised as follows:

- Are we transitioning to a new economy?
- Affected all local governments individually;
- Supply series of anecdotal evidence to WALGA who will then substantiate;
- Support AROC group writing to Dana Mason at WALGA;
- Economy not just based on mining;

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SHIRE OF TOODYAY, ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

- Opportunity – society as a whole mining situation changed. Needs for money to be put into other areas such as agriculture.

Action:

CEOs to send email to Stan via aroc@toodyay.wa.gov.au by 9 Feb 2017 (5.00pm) to enable time to collate all responses.

7. OTHER MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

7.1 A Sheridan

7.1.1 Vehicle Licensing

Discussion Points were as follows:

- Financial impact upon local governments;
- WALGA coordinated response – seeking member's feedback.

7.2 D Metcalf

7.2.1 Annual Ratepayers meeting

Discussion Points were as follows:

- Slashing machine of trees/vegetation along streets;
- Reduction of flora/fauna.

8. NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of AROC CEOs will be held on 13 March 2017
Note: Brendan J Smith from LG Advisory will present to this meeting.
- The next meeting of AROC will be held on 3 April 2017

9. MEETING CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.40pm.



AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

6 February 2017

MINUTE ATTACHMENTS

Item 2.1 Presentations	1
2.1 RDA Wheatbelt – Agenda	1
Attachment 1 RDA Wheatbelt correspondence	1
Item 5 Matters arising	3
5.2 Updated Action List	3
Item 6 Items of Business	7
6.1 Financial Report	7
6.2 Productivity Commission – transitioning economies submission	8
Attachment 1 Email from WALGA;	8
Attachment 2 Media Release; and	9
Attachment 3 Terms of Reference.	11

RDA Wheatbelt Inc
3 Constable Street,
Gingin, WA, 6503

Tel: 08 9575 1888

Fax: 08 9575 1999

Email: admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au

Web: www.rdawheatbelt.com.au

ABN: 30 580 026 380

25 January 2017

Mr Stan Scott
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Toodyay
AROC
Via email aroc@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Dear AROC Chair

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt, Committee. RDA Wheatbelt operates with a Committee of eight members and three staff, including our Executive Officer, Juliet Grist.

Our main role includes promoting and supporting the Federal Governments regional development and funding policy. We are also requested to promote Federal Government programs such as the NBN roll out, mobile phone black spot funding, and numerous other Federal funding programs. Other roles include providing feedback on local issues of Federal significance, providing comment on the local impact of Federal policies and engaging with key regional stake holders.

Over the past 18 months we have focused on establishing RDA Wheatbelt as the go to group on Federal issues and improving the standard of funding applications for Federal grants by applicants and key stakeholders from the Wheatbelt region. This is a challenge considering our limited funding and staff numbers. While I am pleased with the progress we are making, there is still a long way to go in terms of how our group can help achieve improved outcomes for the Wheatbelt.

Local Government is a key player within our program and is considered as one of our key stakeholders. I believe we need to improve our communication and working relationship with the forty-two Local Government's operating within the Wheatbelt. The challenge is how best to engage with Local Government, in a manner that is positive and effective for both parties. The current practice of attending the Local Government zone meetings is not effective in producing results of value, for all concerned.



I believe it would be more effective to meet in smaller groups, to discuss our role, and how we can improve our working relationship with the Local Governments within the Wheatbelt. I would suggest meeting with the local ROC's, or Shires that are already working together in smaller clusters.

The idea would be to meet initially for around one hour with a set agenda that includes: -

- Brief on the role of RDAW.
- Discussion on local issues that might have some Federal connection.
- How we can best work together – communications – future meetings.
- Establishing a Local Government list of priority regional projects.

I look forward to your feedback and I am keen to organise a meeting with your group during the early part of this year.

To schedule a meeting or to discuss ways to enhance collaboration would you please contact our Executive Officer, Juliet Grist at juliet.grist@rdawheatbelt.com.au or call 0428 372 179.

Yours sincerely



Graham Cooper
Chairman
RDA Wheatbelt



Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Action List comprising of Status Report and Project List

Action List / Status Report			
Date	Details	Name	Latest Comments
Ongoing	<p>Specialty Staff Meetings to be convened by the nominated Host of Specialty Staff as follows:</p> <p>Rates Officers – Shire of Dowerin Planning Managers – Shire of Chittering. Rangers Meeting – Shire of Toodyay Sharing Opportunities EO/EHO/CESM</p> <p>*Meetings can coincide with the AROC CEO meetings.</p>	CEO's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of AROC reason for being. Meetings occur on an ad hoc basis. Promoting at CEO Level the importance of talking to neighbours, Resource Sharing, etc. Networking.
Ongoing	<p>Stage II Aged Housing Project</p> <p>Written updates to be provided to all other Members of AROC to keep them abreast of all information in relation to the project.</p>	CEO's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goomalling responsible putting together funding. Announcement through Mia Davies Office – approved and will be coming through in due course to Goomalling as lead local govt. 3 year plan. Tender for construction of units in each location with Architect. Tender specs to go out in next 3-4 weeks.
8/2/2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning for Avon Tourism Funding application for the development of an AROC Regional Tourism Plan. <p>Signs of progress occurring.</p>	CEO Toodyay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Dore (Chair of Avon Tourism) to be invited to next CEO's meeting in March 2017 Funding Application deferred until a business plan can be written to accompany the grant application. Avon Tourism more responsive. Quite positive.
08/02/2016	<p>Invitation to be sent to York Shire, inviting them to be members of AROC.</p>	CEO Toodyay	<p>Awaiting the Shire of York to respond.</p>

Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Action List comprising of Status Report and Project List

Action List / Status Report			
Date	Details	Name	Latest Comments
06/02/2017 <i>Recommendation due in April 2017</i>	AROC Planning for 2016/2017 - discuss AROC priorities	AROC CEO'S <i>to review list at their next meeting.</i>	<p>As an attachment to the MOU there is a set of priorities that gets reviewed each year. Suspect the priorities have not changed much from year to year.</p> <p>Include Transport as an issue and need for adequate funding for commodities but grain freight (Ag-line route) throughout the Wheatbelt (including AROC).</p> <p>Include Education in Wheatbelt.</p>
5/12/2016	Unaudited AROC Financial Report received on 5.12.2016.	Shire of Dowerin	The Auditors appointed by the Shire of Dowerin requested by AROC Members, informally, to include 'a special comment' in regard to the AROC financials during their Audit of the Shire of Dowerin financials – to be provided to AROC in due course.
03/10/2016	Shire of York be provided with a copy of AROC MOU and financial Information from the Shire of Toodyay	Shire of Toodyay	<i>Note: a copy will be forwarded with the hardcopy correspondence inviting Shire of York to join AROC formally.</i>
03/10/16	Shire of Toodyay officially invite the Shire of York to join AROC	Shire of Toodyay	Invitation made that included the balance for 2015/2016 buy-in.
03/10/16	Shire of York to be given opportunity to consider the Regional Recreation Plan for 2016/2017 prior to the December 2016 AROC Meeting.	Shire of Northam	Revised brief to be provided by the Shire of Northam to the Shire of Toodyay for inclusion in the AROC Agenda for the December meeting.

Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Action List comprising of Status Report and Project List

Project List				
Funding	Project Name	Project Manager(s)	Current Stage of Project	Done/Yet to do
11/12	Steam Train Project	Shire of Dowerin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variation to funding outcomes; • Further testing of the train's rolling stock (Brookfield); • Accreditation was completed (Feb 2016). • Issues with insurance, asset management identified; • Update to DRD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Council Committee including representatives of the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, LGIS and AROC (Clem Kerp nominated as AROC Rep.) • Platform in Goomalling is a priority; • Wheatbelt Heritage Rail Strategy and Business Plan being prepared.
12/13	Aged Housing Funded through CLGF	Shire of Toodyay	Plans signed off by partner. Architect to finalise plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management consultant appointed; • Financial Management arrangements agreed; • Housing tenders for Goomalling and VP imminent – Toodyay will be 2 part process forward works and housing; • Application for the AROC Housing Alliance Project.

Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

Action List comprising of Status Report and Project List

Project List				
Funding	Project Name	Project Manager(s)	Current Stage of Project	Done/Yet to do
2016/2017	Regional Recreation Plan / Strategy <i>AROC to develop a Regional Recreation Strategy as part of its 2016/2017 program of activities.</i>	AROC CEO's	AROC Resolution: 1. Shire of Northam get quotes; and 2. AROC CEO's be the Working Group to decide on the engagement of a Consultant for Stage One to a maximum value of \$15,000.	
2016/2017	AROC Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2020	Shire of Toodyay CEO	Formation of AROC Waste Management Working Group to <i>'monitor the implementation of the Regional Waste Minimisation Strategy, identify cooperation and funding opportunities.'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence sent to AROC on 8/12/2016 requesting nomination of representatives, after which dates will be set for quarterly meetings in 2017.

AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
Statement of Comprehensive Income

Administered by Shire of Northam

	Opening Balance	01.07.2016					
	13.12.2016	13.12.2016	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brought Forward	96,252	95,655	101,543	134,108	80,618	59,367	49,202
Revenue							
Member Contributions			30,000	30,000	30,000	48,000	-
Grants					25,000	26,604	26,604
WDC Contribution							
Fees & Charges			5,391	2,459	636	2,364	9,318
Interest Earnings		597	1,914	2,299	2,219	2,611	2,830
Other Revenue			-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	-	597	37,305	34,759	57,855	79,579	38,752
Expenses							
Insurance			846	1,158	1,445	1,575	1,488
Equipment Expenditure			5,897	3,081	2,919	69	495
Shared Services Aged Care Planning Shire of Chitterung BCF						30,000	-
Shire of Toodyay BCF						26,684	13,302
Shire of Toodyay Administration	8,250		7,500	7,500			
Shire of Dowerin BCF min 3.2.2 12.3.12)							13,302
WB Infrastructure Conway Highbury				12,000			
WB Infrastructure refund to WDC				17,273			
Localise Aged Friendly Audit				26,312			
Strategic Waste Management Plan			28,950				
Other Expenditure							
Total Expenditure	8,250	0	43,193	67,324	4,364	58,328	28,587
Net Result	8,250	597	- 5,888	- 32,565	53,491	21,251	10,165
Accumulated Funds on hand	<u>88,002</u>	<u>96,252</u>	<u>95,655</u>	<u>101,543</u>	<u>134,108</u>	<u>80,618</u>	<u>59,367</u>
Represented by Bankwest Trust Account	88,002						

Note Date of receipt of funds from the Shire of Dowerin was 13 December 2016

From: Joanne Burges [<mailto:JBurges@walga.asn.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 February 2017 10:25 AM
To: Joanne Burges <JBurges@walga.asn.au>
Cc: Dana Mason <DMason@walga.asn.au>
Subject: Productivity Commission - transitioning economies submission

Good Morning All

Please see email below from our Policy Manager – Economics, Dana Mason. WALGA is very keen to ensure that we are able to provide a well-informed presentation to the Productivity Commission and via our submission. One of the very important aspects to the presentation are examples of how communities are impacted following the resources boom. We would be very grateful of any examples you are able to provide to inform our submission and presentation.

Kind regards

Jo

Transition of the Australian Economy following the resources investment boom

The Federal Government recently directed the Productivity Commission to undertake a study into the geographic impacts of the transition of the Australian economy following the resources investment boom. The purpose of the study is to identify those regions and localities that face significant challenges in transitioning to a more sustainable economic base. More information about the Inquiry can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/transitioning-regions>

The transition of the economy following the mining investment boom is a key issue for Western Australia, and WALGA will be providing a submission to the Inquiry. WALGA will also be meeting with the Commission as part of its consultation process, to discuss the impacts of the economic downturn on local government and local communities. The meeting will take place on 13 February 2017.

To ensure that we can provide tangible and relevant examples of the impact of the downturn on the sector, we are seeking your input. Some examples of the impacts may relate to:

- local employment;
- business registrations;
- cuts to state government funding;
- increase in crime; and
- homelessness.

It would be appreciated if you could provide any feedback about these or other examples to Dana Mason, Policy Manager, Economics, at dmason@walga.asn.au or call 9213 2096 by **10 February 2017**.

Dana Mason | Policy Manager - Economics | WALGA

(p) (08) 9213 2096 | (m) 0417 917 748 | (f) (08) 9213 2077 | (e) dmason@walga.asn.au





THE HON SCOTT MORRISON MP
TREASURER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



(<http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/>)

[Home \(/\)](#)

[Biography \(http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/biography/\)](http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/biography/)

[Media Releases \(/media-release/\)](#)

[Speeches \(/speech/\)](#)

[Transcripts \(/transcript/\)](#)

[Contact \(http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/contact/\)](http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/contact/)

14 December 2016

[Media Release \(http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/ \)](http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/)

Productivity commission study on the transition of regional economies following the resources boom

The Australian economy's transition away from the resources-led boom towards broader-based growth is presenting different challenges and opportunities for Australia's regions.

In order to better understand this, the Government has provided the Productivity Commission with terms of reference to commence a study on the impact of the transition on regional economies.

While Australia continues to benefit from strong commodity export growth and a transition to broader-based growth is underway, there are some parts of Australia doing it tougher than others.

At the same time, our economy is reconciling the impacts of globalisation and technological change and the Turnbull Government wants to ensure that Australians are not being left behind.

The Government has a clear economic plan to support this transition, to fuel economic growth and deliver our children and grandchildren the jobs they deserve, but we need to better understand and respond to the local drivers and causes of economic change.

By its nature, the transition will vary around the country. It will create considerable growth and prosperity in some regions, while presenting challenges for others.

The Turnbull Government wants to ensure that all parts of Australia successfully manage the transition and continue to benefit from the growth in our economy.

The Government is committed to working with State, Territory and local governments to help the regions and localities which are facing challenges in successfully transitioning to a more sustainable economic base following the mining boom.

The study will help to determine how well different regions are adapting to the transition and the factors which influence their capacity to adapt to changes in economic circumstances, and to identify those regions most at risk of failing to adjust.

The Commission is due to provide an initial report to the Government in April 2017 and a final report within 12 months.

Public consultation will be undertaken as part of the study and the Government encourages all interested parties to participate. Further information and the terms of reference are available on the Commission's website (<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/transitioning-regions>).



Portfolio Ministers

The Hon Scott Morrison MP (<http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/>)
The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP (<http://kmo.ministers.treasury.gov.au/>)
The Hon Michael McCormack MP (<http://mfm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/>)
The Hon Michael Sukkar MP (<http://mss.ministers.treasury.gov.au/>)
Treasury Portfolio Ministers (<http://ministers.treasury.gov.au/Default.aspx>)

Legal

Copyright (<http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/copyright/>)
Disclaimer (<http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/disclaimer/>)
Privacy Statement (<http://sjm.ministers.treasury.gov.au/condensed-privacy-policy/>)

Transitioning Regional Economies

Terms of reference

A study on the transition of regional economies following the resources boom.

I, Scott Morrison, Treasurer, pursuant to Parts 2 and 4 of the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*, hereby request that the Productivity Commission undertake a study into the geographic impacts of the transition of the Australian economy following the resources investment boom.

Background

The transition from the mining investment boom to broader-based growth is underway. This transition is occurring at the same time as our economy is reconciling the impacts of globalization, technological and environmental change.

By its nature, the geography of our economic transition will not be consistent across the country.

The combination of forces driving the transition of our economy will unavoidably create friction points in specific regional areas and localities across the country, while being the source of considerable growth and prosperity in others.

The different impacts across the geographic regions of the Australian economy occur because of variable factors such as endowments of natural resources and demographics. Some regions may also have limited capacity to respond to changes in economic conditions; for example, due to different policy or institutional settings.

Scope of the research study

The purpose of this study is to examine the regional geography of Australia's economic transition, since the mining investment boom, to identify those regions and localities that face significant challenges in successfully transitioning to a more sustainable economic base and the factors which will influence their capacity to adapt to changes in economic circumstances.

The study should also draw on analyses of previous transitions that have occurred in the Australian economy and policy responses as a reference and guide to analysing our current transition. The Commission should consult with statistical agencies and other experts.

In undertaking the study, the Commission should:

1. Identify regions which are likely, from an examination of economic and social data, to make a less successful transition from the resources boom than other parts of the country at a time when our economy is reconciling the impacts of globalization, technological and environmental change.

Transitioning Regional Economies

Terms of reference

2. For each such region, identify the primary factors contributing to this performance. Identify distributional impacts as part of this analysis.
3. Establish an economic metric, combining a series of indicators to assess the degree of economic dislocation/engagement, transitional friction and local economic sustainability for regions across Australia and rank those regions to identify those most at risk of failing to adjust.
4. Devise an analytical framework for assessing the scope for economic and social development in regions which share similar economic characteristics, including dependency on interrelationships between regions.
5. Consider the relevance of geographic labour mobility including Fly-In/Fly-Out, Drive-In/Drive-Out and temporary migrant labour.
6. Examine the prospects for change to the structure of each region's economy and factors that may inhibit this or otherwise prevent a broad sharing of opportunity, consistent with the national growth outlook.

Process

The Commission is to undertake an appropriate public consultation process including consultation with Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, as well as local government where appropriate.

The final report should be provided within 12 months of the receipt of these terms of reference, with an initial report provided in April.

Scott Morrison
Treasurer

[Received 15 December 2016]