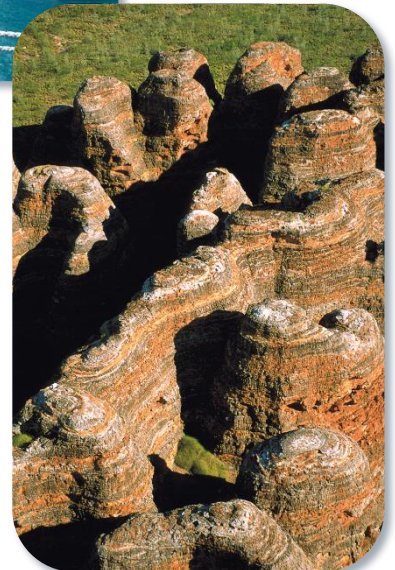
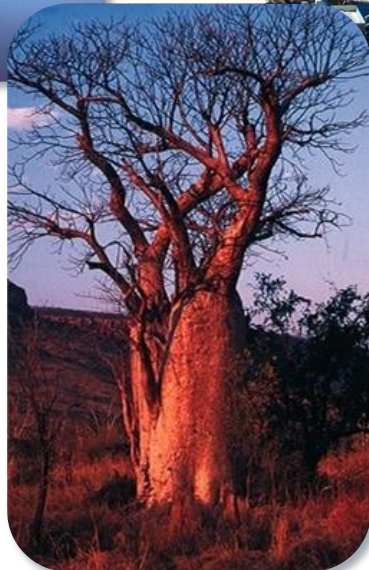


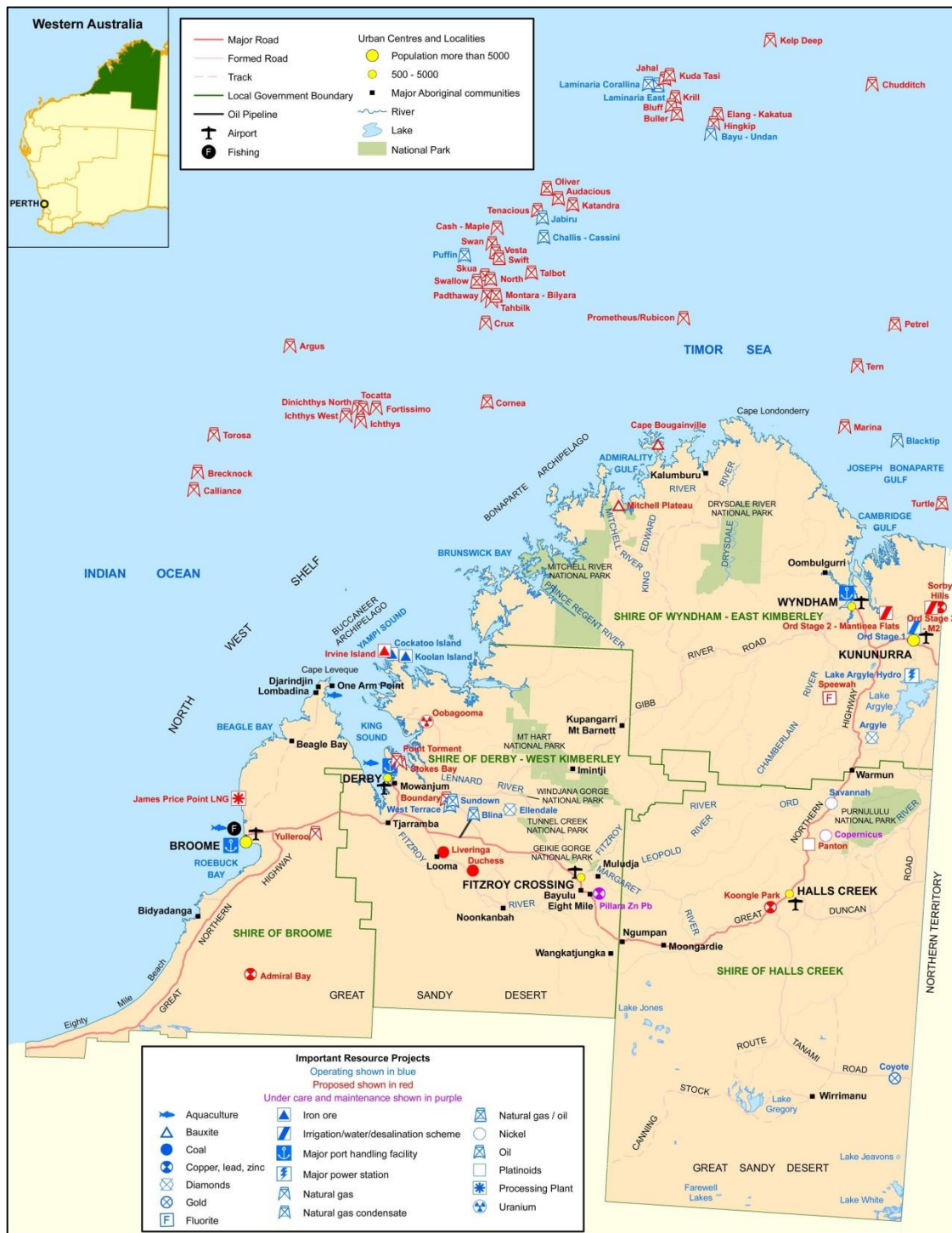
Regional Plan

Regional Development Australia Kimberley

2013 – 2016



The Kimberley Region, Western Australia



Map 1: the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.
 Source: Kimberley Development Commission and Department of Water.

Disclaimer:

This report was produced by RDA Kimberley and does not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government, its officers, employees or agents.

Message from the Chair



Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a partnership between Australian, State, Territory and Local Governments to strengthen regional communities.

RDAs are a national network of 55 committees whose members volunteer their time to represent the interests of community, business and local government, in order to deliver RDA priorities. They focus on working with their communities to identify and address the economic, social and environmental issues affecting them.

The Kimberley RDA was established in 2010, and as of June 2013 consists of the following committee members:

- Glen Chidlow (Acting Chairperson)
Chief Executive Officer, Australia's Northwest Tourism;
- Elsia Archer (Acting Deputy Chairperson)
Shire President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley;
- Kelvin Barr (Committee Member)
Deputy Director, Kimberley Development Commission;
- Susan Bradley (Committee Member)
Manager, Dunkeld Pastoral Company;
- Katya Tripp (Committee Member)
Strategic Planner, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK).

The key roles and responsibilities of RDA Kimberley are:

- Advice and promotion of the RDA Fund (RDAF);
- Community engagement and consultation;
- Informed regional planning;
- Enhanced whole-of-government approach;
- Promotion of government programs;
- Community and economic development.

In addition, the RDA Kimberley Committee is responsible for the development of a Regional Plan.

RDA Kimberley is committed to working closely with the Kimberley Development Commission and Local Government Authorities for the overall benefit of the region. To this end, the Chief Executive of the Kimberley Development Commission has attended RDA Kimberley regional planning sessions and as Acting Chair of RDA Kimberley, I have participated on the Project Steering Group for the development of the Regional Investment Blueprint. This collaboration is reflected in this Regional Plan even as RDA Kimberley remains clear about its charter from the Australian Government.

The purpose of the Regional Plan is to detail the economic, environmental and social vision for the region. The plan seeks to provide robust data across issues and a rationale for investment set against the context of broader trends and opportunities arising from the combination of Australian, State and Local Government policy settings and funding. RDA Kimberley aims to identify areas requiring whole of government focus to improve standards of social and economic well-being for the regional community.

The Kimberley is a vast region of extraordinary natural beauty; rich in natural resources and cultural heritage. Its isolation, size and small population provide a very attractive lifestyle, however are also a challenge to community and infrastructure development.

The Kimberley has a rich pioneering history and in many ways the region is still being pioneered today. Great opportunity exists in developing the tourism, resources, pastoral, agriculture and aquaculture industries in the Kimberley, and this plan is one step in aiding the region to reach its potential.

As the Chair of RDA Kimberley, I endorse this Regional Plan for the directions that it sets for the next three years.



Glen Chidlow
Acting Chairperson
Regional Development Australia
Kimberley

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Executive Summary

The Kimberley Region of Western Australia is a unique and vast area of desert, river and saltwater country. On the world stage, it is regarded as a last frontier and is renowned for its rugged beauty, isolation, Aboriginal heritage and large areas of pristine wilderness.

The region covers four Local Government areas and 419,558 square kilometres represented below. The population is 37,673 people and the region falls under the Federal electorate of Durack and the State electorate of Kimberley.



Figure 1: The Kimberley Region of Western Australia.

Shire	LGA Land Area	Estimated Resident Population
Broome	54,632 km ²	16,031
Derby – West Kimberley	119,842 km ²	9,240
Wyndham – East Kimberley	112,023 km ²	4,031
Halls Creek	133,061 km ²	8,371
Total Kimberley	419,558 km²	37,673

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Population as of 30 June 2011.

The population is relatively equally divided between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people (43.5% Aboriginal compared to 3.4% State-wide). About one fifth of the State's Aboriginal population resides in the Kimberley. It is forecast that substantial changes in the demographics of the population will occur over the next generations. From the macro-economic perspective, there will be substantial challenges for Local, State and Federal governments as the tension between cultural advancement is weighed against the pressures of sustainable economic regions and communities.

There are over 190 Aboriginal communities and outstations which are reliant on government services provided and delivered from the larger Kimberley towns. These services include health, education, municipal services, aged care and other welfare related initiatives aimed at increasing capacity and employability. Of the 100 pastoral properties in the Kimberley, 31 are Aboriginal owned and operated.

The Kimberley is expected to be one of the fastest growing regions in Western Australia over the next 10 years. The Department of Planning projections for the region's population indicates that the Kimberley population could reach 47,600 by 2023.

In terms of the Kimberley's Gross Regional Product resources is by far the largest industry sector and the value of mineral production for 2011/12 was \$1.4 billion. There is substantial economic activity through the pastoral, agriculture, tourism, pearling, aquaculture and retailing industries. Total Gross Regional Product of the region is estimated at \$3.1 billion.

The major modes of transport for the region include travel by air, road and sea. The Kimberley has ports in Broome, Derby and Wyndham which operate as critical links for the region. The Kimberley also has an extensive network of airports and airstrips providing inter- and intra- regional travel and transport options. In addition, the Kimberley has a regional road network of over 7,700 km, including the Great Northern Highway which provides a sealed link across the region.

The extremes of the Kimberley climate and its unique landscapes are challenging, but are also key attractions for a growing tourism industry. The typically high rainfall that falls in the wet season months makes remote access to many locations difficult and in some cases access is impossible for up to 3 months.

RDA Kimberley's vision for the region is to:

Create an environment of opportunity through collaboration.

There is a determination to create an alternative future where challenges are satisfied and opportunities inherent in the responsible development of the unique resources of the region are maximised for regional benefit.

The regional priorities are:

- Education and Skills Development:
 - Lift educational opportunities and curriculum diversity in the region;
 - Improve education and training pathways to achieve employment outcomes;

- Improve education opportunities by access to appropriate and affordable student / trainee accommodation.
- Economic Development:
 - Advocate for the provision of targeted and regionally strategic infrastructure.
 - Maintain and encourage a diverse economic base.
 - Value-add to assist in improved return on investment and lowered business investment risk.
 - Maximise local employment and small business flow-on.
- Closing the Gap:
 - Meet the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Regional Australia Standing Council (RASC) prioritised targets for the region.
- Housing:
 - Improve remote and social housing delivery.
 - Creative modelling to close the gap between social housing, home ownership and affordable private rental.
- Health:
 - Maintain the focus on improving health standards in remote communities;
 - Continued investment in improved regional health facilities;
 - Support healthy living programs.
- Environment:
 - Balance competing uses to preserve a unique landscape.
- Youth and Early Childhood:
 - Advocate for early childhood centres and preschools:

This document sets out the strategic framework under which RDA Kimberley will operate. In its quest to achieve the vision, RDA Kimberley recognises it must be flexible, seek out opportunities and position itself as focussed on building pathways to employment and economic growth for the region.

The Approach

The approach for this Regional Plan is prompted by:

- A review of RDA planning documents by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; and by
- The 2010 Duncan Review of the West Australian Regional Development Commissions which has resulted in the development of the State's 'Regional Investment Blueprint'.

The template for this Plan (developed by RDA's in Western Australia) is based on the premise that a single document is more practical for the region to take account of the needs of the Commonwealth and the logic of moving towards united regional planning which can be referenced by all stakeholders.

There has been long-standing recognition that one size does not fit all when discussing regional Australia. Accordingly, this Regional Plan endeavours to remain flexible enough to cater for differing needs, while presenting the region in a way that can be easily explored by a wide range of users who may wish to seek specific and reliable information or undertake comparative analyses of different regions.

The document incorporates and builds on the previous regional planning initiatives in the Kimberley, including:

- RDA Kimberley Regional Plan 2012 for which research of 104 plans produced for the region was commenced in May 2010, followed by draft priorities in November 2010, community input and consultation in May 2011 and an annual review in 2012;
- Stage 1 of the Kimberley Development Commission Regional Investment Blueprint completed in March 2013 which reviewed 176 studies and plans for the region, with 40 assessed in detail as documents that have a strategic influence on the region.

Material for the context and analysis sections of this Regional Plan is drawn from these foundation documents.

The Logic of the Document Construction

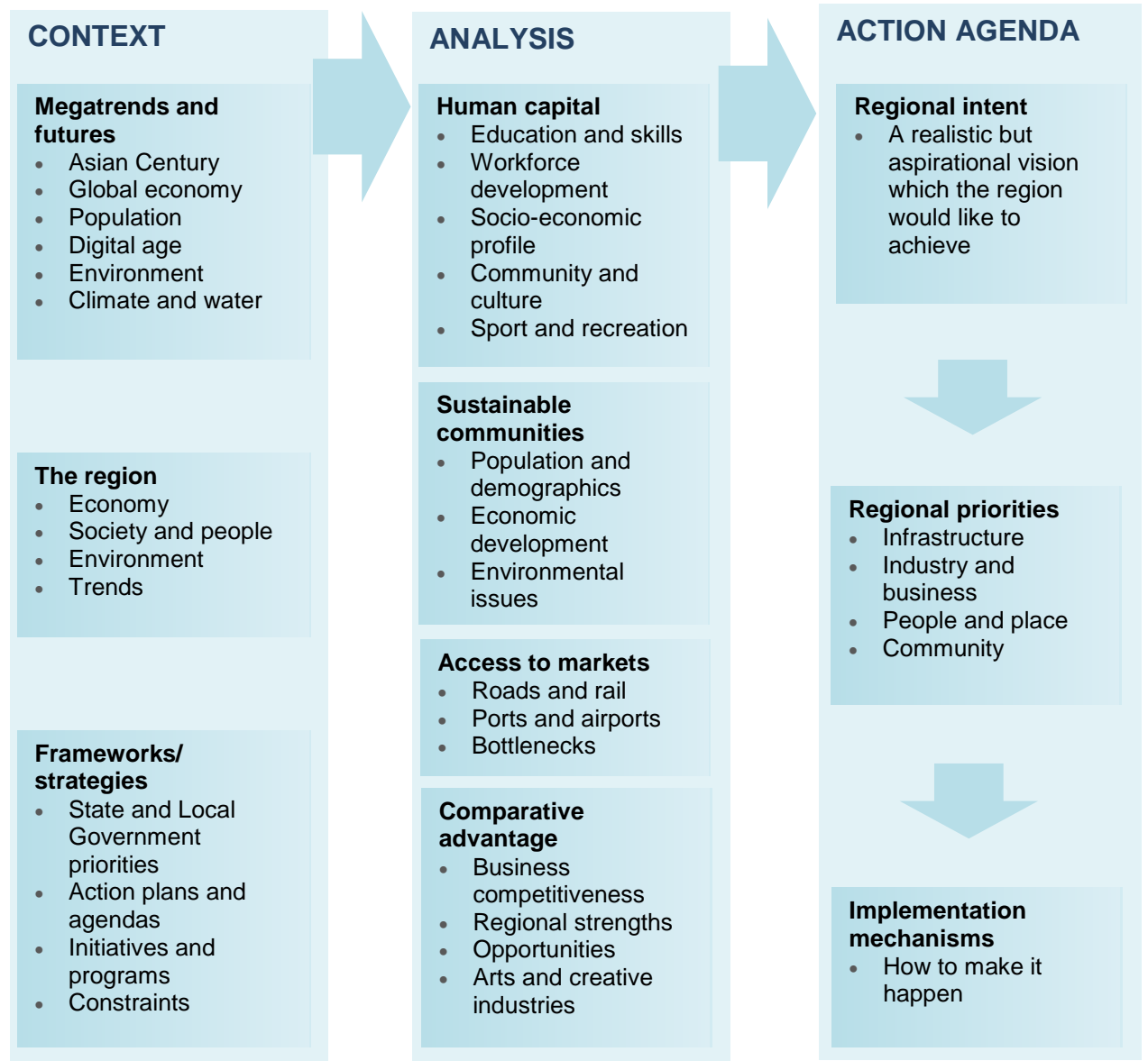


Figure 2: Regional Plan Logic.

The context section is an environmental scan and a summary of the factors that influence the region.

The analysis section is based on the Council of Australian Governments key determinants of long-term regional economic development.

Both of these sections build to the action agenda.

Determinants of Long-term Regional Growth

The Council of Australian Governments Regional Australia Standing Council (COAG RASC) framework has been used by RDA Kimberley to determine regional priorities. COAG RASC has committed to the following framework for regional economic development to provide a common structure for regions to consider their development:

- Human capital:
 - The stock of knowledge, expertise and abilities of a population that can contribute to economic activity, particularly education and skills.
- Sustainable (economic, environmental and social) communities and population growth:
 - The long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability of a region, including changes in the size or composition of the population.
- Access to international, national and regional markets:
 - The ability of the regions to trade goods and services is facilitated by transportation networks, infrastructure and business relationships.
- Comparative advantage and business competitiveness:
 - A region has a comparative advantage when it can produce products, goods or services at a lower opportunity cost than other regions and in a way that cannot be easily duplicated.
- Effective cross sectoral and intergovernmental partnerships through place based approaches and integrated regional planning:
 - Areas of formal and informal cooperation between economic stakeholders that are reflected in integrated regional planning across multiple levels of government, business and the community.

Context

Megatrends and Future Indicators

Major trends and their implications for the Kimberley are:

The Rise of the Asian Century

The Asian century¹ refers to the rise of Asia as a regional power. Australia's previous geographic isolation is being replaced by the prospects of proximity and the opportunities that flow from being located in the Asian region in the Asian century.

In the past 20 years, China and India have almost tripled their share of the global economy and increased their absolute economic size almost six times over. By 2025, the region as a whole will account for almost half the world's output.

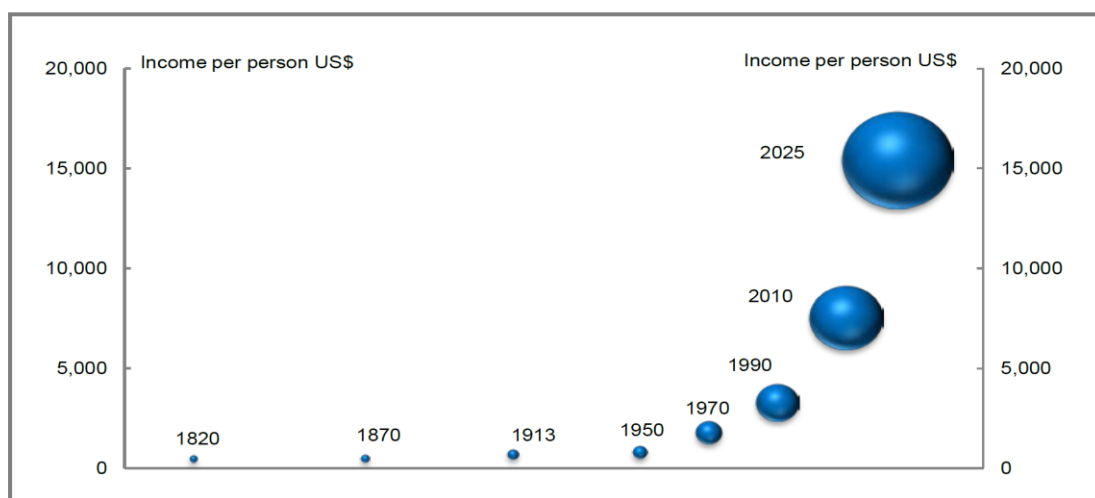


Chart 1: Asia's economic resurgence.

Source: *Australia in the Asian Century White Paper October 2012, Australian Government.*

The bubble area in Chart 1 reflects the size of GDP for Asia's economies, adjusted for purchasing power parity in 2011 prices (Maddison 2010, IMF 2012c, Conference Board 2012 and Treasury projections).

¹ *Australia in the Asian Century, Commonwealth of Australia White Paper, October 2012.*

For the Kimberley region, this could mean:

- Increasing opportunities for regional agriculture as rising food demand, rising populations and a rapidly expanding middle class in Asia provide the stimulus to supply high value food directly into nearby Asian markets;
- Significant potential for expanded pastoral and intensive livestock industries, and new food producing provinces that are based on abundant artesian water and suitable soils;
- The growth of regional tourism based on growing affluence in the Asian region and increased international travel, particularly from China. The Kimberley is able to offer a unique tourism experience that is based on spectacular natural resources, an Asian compatible climate and the mystique of a vast outback region;
- Opportunities for the development and export of a wide range of mineral, oil and gas resources. The Kimberley region has significant but largely unexploited mineral and energy resources including bauxite reserves in the Mitchell Plateau, Cape Bougainville and Mt Leeming / East Kalumburu areas, brown coal reserves in the Fitzroy River flood plains, iron ore, copper, lead, silver, nickel, uranium, tin, mineral sands and on-shore petroleum, in addition to the proven resources of natural gas in the Browse and Canning Basins and current diamond production;
- Development of integrated business arrangements between the Kimberley region and major commercial centres in Asia that share the same time zone including Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing.

The Increase of the Global Economy

Globalisation refers to processes that increase world-wide exchanges of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation and telecommunications are major factors in globalisation, generating further interdependence of economic and cultural activities.

Basic contributors to increasing globalisation are trade and transactions, capital and investment movements, migration and movement of people, and the dissemination of knowledge.

The global economy has seen a shift from the traditional powerhouses of USA and Europe to the emergence of China, India and other Asian and South

American economies. Increased defence expenditure has also been associated with the rise of the global economy.

For the Kimberley region, this could mean:

- The development of Broome as an international entry point for north western Australia, operating as a gateway for people, trade and investment;
- Significant development of port facilities in Broome, Derby and Wyndham to cater for increased export of mineral and agricultural products;
- Increased international investment in resource projects, land and water assets and primary industry production of meat, cotton and sugar, and horticultural production of food, building on the current Ord Expansion initiative and the relative stability and security of the region for investment;
- The development of a significant defence presence in the region to cover the gap in Australia's strategic defence between Perth and Darwin and to protect increasingly valuable offshore resources and infrastructure in Kimberley waters.

Demographic Changes

The population of Australia is estimated at 23,079,640 as of 09 July 2013² and it is expected to exceed 28 million by 2030. With 89% of its population living in urban areas, Australia is one of the world's most urbanised countries.

The Indigenous population of Australia was estimated to be 2.5% of the population in 2011.

The Australian median age was 37.5 years for males and 39.1 years for females and the population growth rate was 1.7% in 2012.

For the majority of Australia, population trends are focussed on the ageing of the population and the attendant impacts such as rising pension demands, rising health demands for the aged and provision of accommodation and facilities for aged people.

² Population Clock, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013.

The Kimberley region has needs for aged people but the major population challenge will be significantly different, arising from:

- A demographic make-up of the Kimberley that is unique in comparison to the overall Australian profile, with:
 - 43.5% Aboriginal population, compared to 2.5% for Australia,
 - A widely dispersed Aboriginal population across the region, including 191 remote Aboriginal communities and outstations;
- A resident population composition that impacts heavily on public policy and service provision through health, education, training, justice, community development and industry;
- Opportunities for centres within the region to become permanent residence hubs for Fly In – Fly Out workforces from international sources, the Asian region and from other regions and cities within Australia.

The Advent of the Digital Age

The digital age refers to the shift from traditional industry to an economy based on information computerisation. This creates a knowledge-based society surrounded by a high-tech global economy. It is characterised by the widespread use of computers, fibre optics, communications satellites, the internet and other information and communication technology tools.

For the Kimberley, the most likely outcome is:

- The Kimberley is at risk of not keeping up with the rest of Australia digitally:
 - rollout of digital infrastructure is slower;
 - services are not aligned with population distribution;
 - lower education levels impact on the take-up of digital technology;
 - limited support services are available;
- However, if the region can adopt and utilise digital innovations, there is a significant opportunity to overcome the inherent limitations of a remote and vast environment and enable residents and businesses to be in touch with each other and to interact with a global community;
- The introduction of automated technology in the resources sector may change the skill sets required for local and regional employment.

Increasing Pressure on the Environment

The environment includes land, water, air quality and the biodiversity associated with these elements.

Environmental challenges such as climate change, cross-boundary water and air pollution and over-fishing of oceans are linked with globalisation.

For the Kimberley, this could mean:

- Increased development of water resources for commercial operations;
- Increased focus on industrial and domestic waste management;
- An increased environmental footprint from development growth, in a region that is relatively pristine;
- Increasing pressure to manage the environmental qualities of unique areas and protect assets from wildfires;
- Opportunities for greater diversification of land use.

Changing Climate and Water Conditions

Climate change is a significant and lasting change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods of time. Climate change may be caused as part of the Earth's natural processes such as oceanic circulation, biotic processes or variations in solar radiation. It may also be caused by human-induced alternations of the natural world and this impact is commonly referred to as global warming.

For the Kimberley, this could mean:

- An increase in the number and intensity of cyclones, causing more damage to economic and social infrastructure;
- Increased pressure on water availability from regional, intrastate and interstate demand;
- Increased water trading and regulation;
- Greater opportunity for water re-usage through improved technology.

Regional Overview

The Region

The Kimberley region in the far north of Western Australia covers an area of 419,558 square kilometres which is one sixth of Western Australia.

The environment is both sub-tropical and arid with distinct wet and dry seasons. The monsoonal wet season brings tropical rains that can cause significant flooding, with the dry season providing warm days and mild evenings.

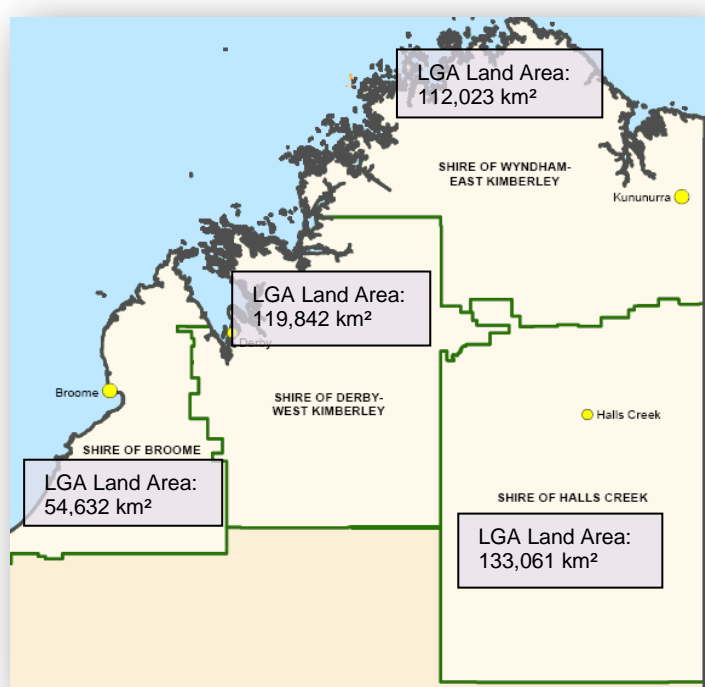


Figure 3: Land area of Local Government Areas.

The region is divided into four Local Government areas and is referred to as West Kimberley (which includes the Shire of Broome and the Shire of Derby West Kimberley); and East Kimberley (which includes the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley).

The six major population centres are Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham and the bulk of the population live in those centres.

The region is part of the Durack electorate at the Federal level, the Kimberley electorate at the State Legislative Assembly and the Mining and Pastoral electoral district at the State Legislative Council.

Demographics

The estimated resident population as at 2011 was 37,673 with the following breakdown per Local Government area.

Shire	1996	2011	Average Annual Growth 1996-2011
Broome	9,766	16,031	3.4%
Derby-West Kimberley	6,512	9,240	2.4%
Halls Creek	2,910	4,031	2.2%
Wyndham- East Kimberley	6,484	8,371	1.7%
Total Kimberley	25,672	37,673	2.6%
Total WA	1,765,256	2,352,300	1.9%

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Population.

The demographics of the Kimberley are unique. The population is broadly characterised by a young and growing Aboriginal population and a high level of non-Aboriginal working age people attracted to the region's economic opportunities. Between 1996 and 2011, the region experienced one of the fastest population growth rates of any region in Western Australia.

The following chart demonstrates these two concepts.

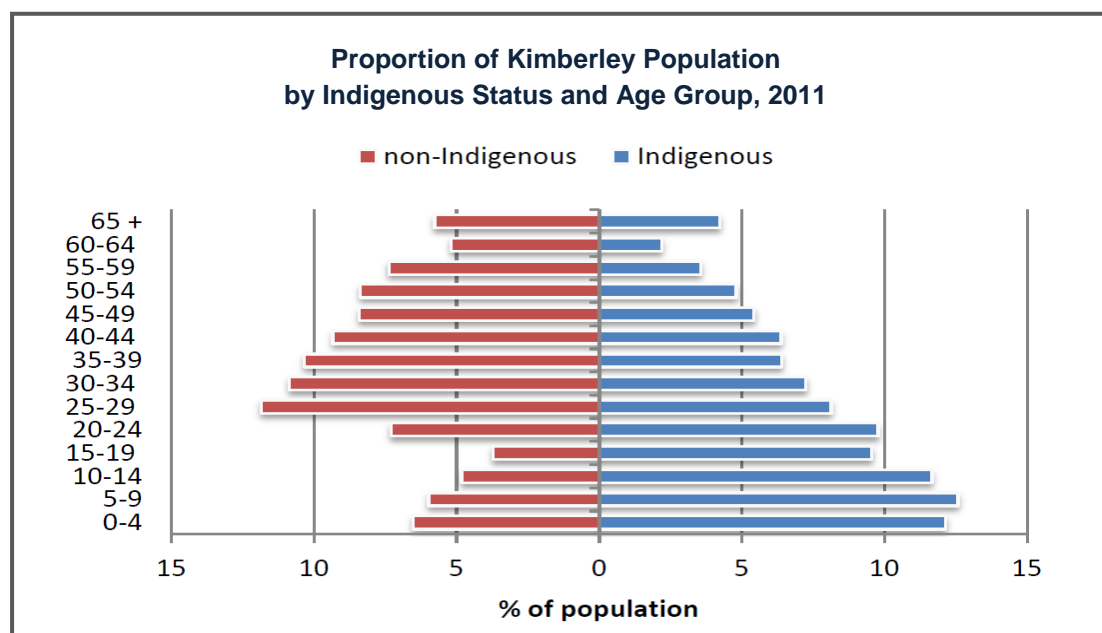


Chart 2: Population demographics by Indigenous status and age group.
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Key demographic indicators from the 2011 Census are:

- The Kimberley's medium age was 30 years, compared to 36 years for the remainder of Western Australia;
- 43.5% of the population was Aboriginal;
- 53.5% of the Aboriginal population of the Kimberley was less than 25 years of age compared with 26.7% of the non-Aboriginal population of the Kimberley;
- Aboriginal residents in the Kimberley had a median age of 23 years, compared to the non-Aboriginal median of 35 years.

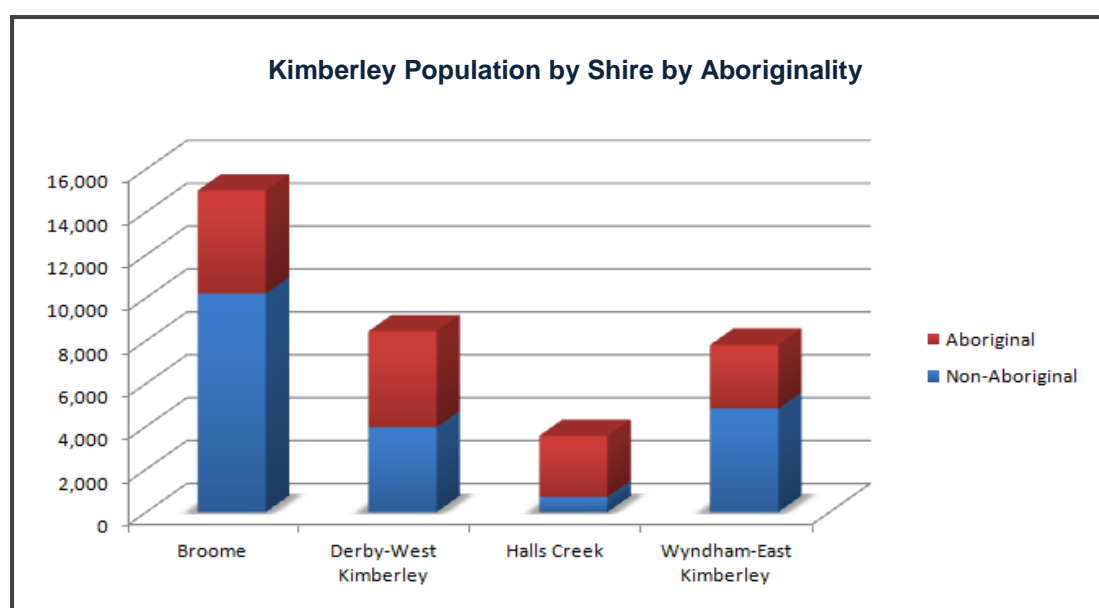


Chart 3: Population demographics by Shire by Aboriginality.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Population growth is expected to increase to over 47,000 people living in the region by 2026.³

There are 131 remote Aboriginal communities and outstations in the West Kimberley and 60 in the East Kimberley which are heavily reliant on the provision of government services.

³ Western Australian Planning Commission (2012).

Economy

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) for the Kimberley region in 2010–11 was \$3.1 billion, representing a 1.4% contribution to the Gross State Product (GSP). The contribution towards GRP is dominated by the mining industry, which has contributed around 36% to GRP in recent years.

Indicator	Kimberley	State Comparison
Gross Regional Product (2010/11)	\$3.1 billion	1.4% of Gross State Product
Resources Production (2011/12)	\$1.4 billion	1.3% of Total State Production
Agricultural Production (2010/11)	\$194 million	3.4% of Total State Production
Tourism Visitors per year	270,000	21,500,000

Source: Department of Regional Development and Lands, Tourism WA and ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Employment

Whilst the resources sector is the major contributor to GRP, the largest industry by employment is Health Care and Social Assistance which employed 1,829 in 2011 followed closely by the Education and Training sector which employed 1,749. The largest relative growth in employment by industry between 2006 and 2011 has been in the areas of mining, education and training, and arts and recreation services. The total labour force is estimated to be around 18,500.

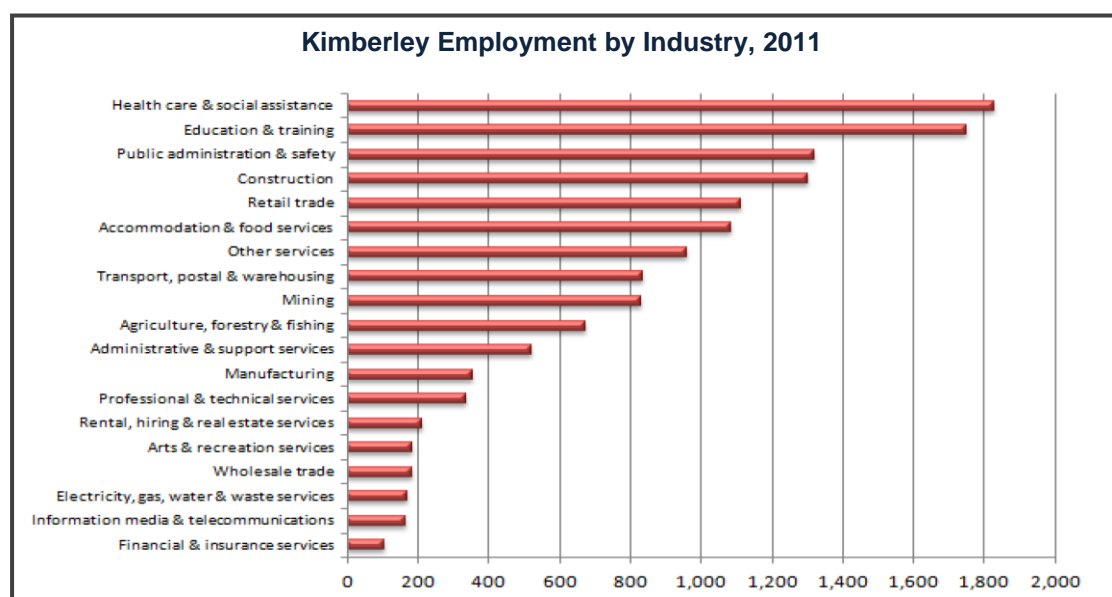


Chart 4: Kimberley employment by industry.

The region has an unemployment rate that is consistently higher than the State-wide rate, which is a factor of demographic influences rather than a lack of economic opportunities. An unemployment rate of 5.4% masks an uneven distribution across the community, with some parts of the Aboriginal population experiencing unemployment rates of over 50%.

Mining and Energy

Minerals and petroleum production is the largest component of the GRP as shown in the table below.

Kimberley region: Value of minerals and petroleum by commodity (2010-11)

Commodity	\$ million	%
Iron ore	429.6	42.0
Nickel, copper and cobalt	221.7	21.7
Diamonds and crude oil	304.6	29.8
Gold and silver	57.6	5.6
Other	8.5	0.9
Total	1,022.0	100.0

Source: Department of Minerals and Energy Resource Data Files (available at <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/1521.aspx#1589>).

The region accounts for all of Western Australia's diamond production and produces around 90% of the world's pink diamonds.

The major iron ore projects are located on Cockatoo Island, Koolan Island and south of Wyndham. Nickel, copper and cobalt projects are located south of Kununurra, diamonds and crude oil is located across the region and gold is produced from Halls Creek and further east in the Tanami area.

Significant resources are contained offshore in the Browse Basin Oil and Gas area and in the Bonaparte Gulf, and onshore in the Canning Basin. The Department of Mines and Petroleum has information to suggest that these reserves may hold 260 trillion cubic feet of resources which is more than 50% of the entire Australian resource.⁴

⁴ Kimberley Development Commission (2013).

Tourism

The Kimberley Region has on offer some of Australia's most unique wilderness and cultural experiences, with spectacular gorges, waterfalls and cave systems, beautiful beaches and an amazing variety of wildlife.

Visitor numbers to the region have fluctuated significantly over the past ten years and Tourism WA estimated 292,600 visitors to the region in 2012 comprising 257,000 domestic visitors and 35,600 international tourists. The value of tourism expenditure was \$332 million in the same year⁵.



Chart 5: Kimberley Tourism: Estimated expenditure and visitor numbers 2001-2012.

Source: Tourism Western Australia & Department of Regional Development.

Pastoral Industry

The vast majority of the Kimberley land area is allocated as pastoral lease, with approximately 100 cattle stations in the region, of which 31 are held by Aboriginal entities.

The Kimberley is the closest pastoral zone to Australia's biggest cattle export market, Indonesia, and Wyndham Port in the East Kimberley has the capacity to expand to any increase in demand from international markets.

In the West Kimberley, the Indigenous Land Corporation has invested \$2 million building an export depot that can handle up to 8,000 head of cattle

⁵ Tourism Western Australia 2001 to 2012.

at a time. The facility, on Roebuck Plains Station, is situated only 30 km from the Broome Port.

Prior to the suspension of the live cattle trade in 2011, between 60,000 and 80,000 cattle were exported from Broome to Indonesia each year, with the live export industry across the Kimberley region generating \$139 million in 2008-09. The suspension of trade has impacted the live cattle industry significantly and limited export opportunities and Indonesian investment in the Kimberley pastoral properties is only beginning to reappear in 2013.

Agriculture and Horticulture

The total value of agriculture is largely split between crops and livestock and is dominated by the beef cattle industry. However in recent years, there has been an increase in applications to develop irrigated agriculture within pastoral leases, referred to as pastoral diversification. The value of agricultural production in 2011/12 was \$194 million which is 3.4% of total State production. The value of horticulture in the West Kimberley was approximately \$34.5 million in 2011 and is predicted to expand to over \$90 million by 2016 (as per comms Chris Ham, Department of Agriculture and Food, 2011).

Horticulture is seen by many to be the main driver of short-term economic growth in the East Kimberley region, particularly with the 13,400 hectare expansion to the current 14,000 hectare Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA). The ORIA typically produces melons and a range of cucurbit crops, dry culinary beans, chick peas, chia, mangoes, bananas, hybrid seed for Eastern States markets, cattle fattened on leucaena, and a range of emerging tree crops such as lemon, lime, red grapefruit, carambola, star apple, sapodilla as well as significant areas under sandalwood in recent years.

Most of the crops grown in the Kimberley take advantage of the mild to warm winter when they can be grown out of season to other production areas, allowing consumers to enjoy a wider range of fresh fruit and vegetables year round. Many farmers in the region rely on low-skilled workers and domestic and international backpackers to harvest their crops.

Aquaculture

Pearling has been a major industry of the Kimberley for over a century, when naturally occurring 'mother of pearl' shell or *Pinctada maxima* was sought after for the manufacture of clothing buttons. The cultured pearl industry operates from Broome to Darwin and has historically been a major provider of

regional employment opportunities. The Global Financial Crisis in 2008/09 impacted this industry substantially and present reports estimate that at least 50% of the pearling industry is in 'standby' mode, awaiting improved economic conditions. The industry in better years (2003/04) has seen it contribute approximately \$122 million to the regional economy⁶, and provide employment for around 500 people in the region.

There are a number of finfish based aquaculture projects that have been trialled across the Kimberley. The 2,000 hectare Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone project has been initiated at Cone Bay, with field studies completed in March 2013 that indicate that up to 20,000 tonnes of total finfish biomass can be produced without any significant impacts on the marine environment.⁷

Society and People

Socio Economic Indicators

A summary of the socio economic indicators for the region indicates that Kimberley households are generally younger, larger, and more expensive to run; less educated and has a lower income than the State average.

Indicator	Kimberley	State Comparison
Population (ERP 2011)	37,673	2,352,215 (1.6%)
Median Age (2011)	30	36
Aboriginal (2011)	43.5%	3.4%
Population under 15 (2011)	24.6%	20%
Population over 64 (2011)	4.8%	12%
Labour Force (2011/12)	18,222	1,170,345 (1.6%)
Median personal weekly income	\$988 (non Aboriginal) \$233 (Aboriginal)	\$662
Median monthly mortgage repayment (2011)	\$2,383	\$1,950
Average Household Size (2011)	3.0	2.6
Completed Year 12 (2011)	42%	53%
Own or are purchasing dwelling (2011)	32%	69%
State Housing as proportion of rentals (2011)	38%	14%
Unemployment rate (2011/12)	6.1%	4.5%

Source: Department of Regional Development and Lands, Tourism WA and ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

⁶ Department of Fisheries WA, 2006.

⁷ Department of Fisheries WA, 2013.

Indigenous Disadvantage

Research from the Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) Regional Investment Blueprint demonstrates that Aboriginal disadvantage is a dominant influence in the Kimberley and provides a key regional development imperative. This factor is often masked by regional averages balanced by a relatively well-off non-Aboriginal population. Whilst many Aboriginal people in the Kimberley have a good standard of living, larger numbers continue to experience unacceptable levels of disadvantage in living standards, life expectancy, education, health and employment. Data shows the significant gap between the Kimberley Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population, on every indicator.

Indicator	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Median age	23	35
Life expectancy (nationally)	67 male, 73 female	79 male, 83 female
Median personal weekly incomes	\$233	\$988
Average household size	4.0	2.4
Proportion of dwellings requiring 1 or more extra bedrooms	30%	5%
Labour Force Participation	41%	76%
CDEP Participants	680	13
Self Employed	23	624
Completed Year 10	70%	92%
Completed Year 12	21%	55%
Home ownership or being purchased	15%	42%
State or community housing as a proportion of rentals	88%	40%
Registered job seekers	3,763	403

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Minister for Employment Participation Senate Response (accessed at <http://www.openaustralia.org/senate/?gid=2012-11-01.187.1>).

Regional Costs

The 2011 Regional Price Index (RPI) for Western Australia identifies the differences in the price of 500 selected goods and services (the basket of goods and services) between regional town centres and Perth⁸. To estimate the regional cost differences, an index is used, with Perth as the base (100) and other localities rating above or below the base.

In 2011, the regions' index numbers were as follows:

- Pilbara (+37.1%)
- Kimberley (+20.0%)
- Gascoyne (+9.3%)
- Goldfields (+5.1%)
- Mid-West (+2.2%)
- Wheatbelt (+1.0%)
- Great Southern (+0.2%)
- South West (+0.2%)
- Peel (-0.1%)

The Kimberley region at 120, was the second highest index with the additional 20% cost due primarily to significant housing costs, driven by high private rental costs and insurances in the region.

Broome's overall index was 115.2 driven by high food, clothing, housing and recreation costs. Derby's overall index was 132.6, with the housing category recording up to 80 per cent higher than Perth. Halls Creek and Kununurra/Wyndham indices were 118.0 and 117.9 respectively, with housing and clothing categories recording over 20 per cent higher than Perth for both locations.

Housing was a major contributor to the high index in the Kimberley region with private rental costs significantly higher than Perth. Specifically, private rent indices for the surveyed locations were as follows:

- Broome 132.6
- Derby 359.5
- Halls Creek 132.6
- Kununurra/Wyndham 158.1

⁸ Department of Regional Development and Lands, 2011.

Land and Housing

The Kimberley's major towns of Broome and Kununurra have suffered from chronic residential and industrial land shortages for many years, resulting in high land costs and shortages of housing. While recent planning and land release processes like Broome North and Coolibah and Lakeside Estates in Kununurra have seen significant land releases to reduce housing shortages, housing affordability remains an issue for attracting and retaining key personnel in employment across the region.

Community and social housing needs are also vast, with State and Federal Governments struggling to provide adequate funding resources to cope with housing demand in both regional centres and in remote communities.

Education

Primary and secondary education institutions in the Kimberley come under three administrative bodies: The Catholic Education Office; the Kimberley District Education Office; and the Aboriginal Independent Community Schools.

Tertiary institutions include Kimberley Training Institute, with campuses or learning facilities in each major Kimberley town and the University of Notre Dame in Broome. The Rural Clinical School of WA (University of Western Australia) also has a base in Broome. Indigenous adult education in the region is also delivered by Karrayili Adult Education Centre, based in Fitzroy Crossing.

Many families send their children to Perth or Darwin for secondary schooling from the Kimberley. In many cases, families with secondary school-aged children leave the region for schooling reasons, contributing to the high level of staff turnover and ongoing loss of long term professional personnel within the Kimberley.

The disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students has been identified through the Commonwealth Government's "Closing the Gap" strategy where the gaps in literacy, numeracy and education attainments are clearly identified.

Health

A range of integrated facilities, located across the region, deliver health services in the Kimberley. Hospitals at Derby, Broome, Halls Creek,

Wyndham, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra are complemented by community clinics, which exist in many remote localities.

The region has access to a range of specialist services including aged care facilities, dental services, dialysis capabilities, mental health and rehabilitation services, and there has been considerable government investment in the upgrade of these facilities over the last few years.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service, based in Derby, conducts routine clinical and medical consultations in remote communities and pastoral properties. It also provides a 24-hour emergency aero-medical service to all areas of the region.

Energy

Horizon Power provides the region's urban centres with electricity, using independent diesel oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) generators in all centres except Kununurra and Wyndham, where hydro-electric power is also utilised.

A privately owned 30 MW hydroelectric power generation station is operating at the Ord River Dam on Lake Argyle, 80 kilometres south of Kununurra. The station is the largest single contributor to renewable energy electricity generation in WA and provides electricity to the Argyle Diamond Mine and the towns of Kununurra and Wyndham.

Under the Remote Areas Essential Services Program, service providers undertake the essential repair, maintenance and monitoring work on remote regional utilities.

Transport

The extensive distance between centres and communities in the Kimberley places a high importance on the regional road network, resulting in a network of over 7,700 kilometres of roads in the region, with the Great Northern Highway providing a sealed link across the region. Total sealed road length is approximately 2,206 km whilst the remaining 5,000 plus kilometres is unsealed.

Historically, the major mode of transport into the region was by sea, with ports in Broome, Derby and Wyndham. These ports continue to operate as critical links for the region, with live cattle export via Broome and Wyndham,

agricultural and mining cargo through Wyndham, and Broome servicing the expanding oil and gas industry.

The Kimberley has an extensive network of airports and airstrips, including all-weather jet airports at Broome, Derby town and RAAF Curtin Airbase, and Kununurra. The Broome International Airport has an extended landing strip to cater for large jet aircraft. Sealed regional airstrips are available at Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Wyndham.

Communications

The region's urban centres of Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Wyndham and Kununurra have access to the national telecommunications network, regional radio and commercial television. A community television station, GTV 35, operates in Broome. The Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS) provides for the re-transmission of television and/or radio services, including local Aboriginal content within many Kimberley Aboriginal communities. There is a range of ISDN, Satellite 1-way and 2-way and ADSL broadband services across the region. Digital mobile telephone services are available in all Kimberley towns and several mining operations and the 3G mobile network covers six of the largest remote Aboriginal communities.

NBN is envisaged to provide upgraded services along highway with provision of satellite services to remote communities. It is currently anticipated that the rollout of all services will be completed by 2015.

Environment

Water

The Kimberley holds 80% of the State's divertible, fresh, surface water resources. Water supplies for Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra are sourced from bore-fields located near the towns.

Major water resources are controlled through the Ord Surface Water Allocation Plan and the La Grange Groundwater Allocation Plan to meet the demands for agricultural development and environmental uses. Increasing economic and political pressure is likely to impact on Kimberley water assets in the coming decades.

Water efficiencies are critical as industrial and residential demands increase. Halls Creek is currently the most challenged town for water resources and has been subject to water use restrictions in recent years.

Ecosystems

The Kimberley is a largely undeveloped and relatively undisturbed landscape system. It contains abundant river systems, specialised land forms, vast landscapes and vibrant biodiversity. It is complemented by a marine environment that is relatively pristine and conserved by a network of marine parks and protected areas.

The Kimberley environment contributes significantly to the region's cultural values, given its fundamental importance to Aboriginal people, who have strong traditional and spiritual connections to the region's biodiversity, landscape and waters.

The environmental value of the region underpins a major tourism industry and is highly valued by the resident population. Two of Australia's largest National Parks, the Drysdale River National Park and the Prince Regent National Park are located in the Kimberley, in addition to the Mitchell Plateau, home to one of the world's most significant ancient rock galleries. The challenge for the region is to manage development in a way that maintains the unique environmental value of the region.

Waste Management

Waste management is becoming a more critical issue as the region expands in terms of industry and population. Most waste is disposed at local sites but new landfill sites are high priorities for Broome, Derby and Kununurra. There is little recycling in the region due to poor economies of scale and there is an increasing need for a regional waste facility to handle those materials from both industry and town sites that are not suitable for landfill facilities.

Frameworks

Planning and Environmental Frameworks

Whole of Region Planning

Integrated planning is coordinated by government with input from industry, community and Traditional Owner groups.

The draft *Kimberley Planning and Infrastructure Framework* is a comprehensive whole of region planning document that sits under the draft State Planning Strategy and was prepared by the Kimberley Regional Planning Committee, led by the WA Planning Commission with Department of Planning, Kimberley Development Commission and other agency input.

Commonwealth regional planning and decision-making is undertaken by Regional Development Australia and the Office of Northern Australia.

Multiple sub-regional planning and decision-making forums feed into this level of planning.

Statutory Planning

Land use planning is undertaken by the Department of Planning and the WA Planning Commission. Local Government and other agencies provide advice, resulting in local town planning schemes and development strategies in each Shire jurisdiction.

Land use planning in the Kimberley is complicated by the number of Native Title Claims and categories of land tenure, requiring an in depth understanding of the State's planning framework and information sources, town and regional planning.

Sectoral and Development Planning

Regional planning and decision making at the service and development level is undertaken predominantly by State and Local Government Agencies, but also Commonwealth and Non-Government Agencies.

Examples of sector specific plans include:

- Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy (2011);
- National, Conservation and Marine Park management plans;
- The National Defence Force Posture Review;
- Agrifood 2025 Business Case;
- Skilling WA: A Workforce Development Plan for Western Australia;
- The Western Australian Regional Freight Plan;
- The State Strategic Energy Initiative 2013;
- The Kimberley Aboriginal Primary Health Plan 2012 – 2015;
- Affordable Housing Strategy 2010 – 2020;

- The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Aboriginal Housing 2012;
- The Ord Final Agreement.

Cultural Planning

The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) and the two organisations that were established by that Council in the 1980s, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and the Kimberley Language and Resource Centre, have regional and legal responsibilities to represent Traditional Owners.

More recently in accordance with Native Title Agreements, the Yawoorroong Mirriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation (MG Corp) and the Yawuru Native Title Holders Aboriginal Corporation RNTB have been established to provide specific Traditional Owners with direct input to regional development decision-making, through structured frameworks. These groups are influential in the planning and development of Broome and Kununurra.

Traditional Owner groups that have satisfied the requirements of the Native Title Act have determined legal rights as a result. The legal structures that hold these rights, Prescribed Bodies Corporate are important decision makers in regional development.

Commonwealth Priorities

RDA Kimberley is committed to advancing fundamental priorities of the Australian Government for regional development, including:

- Skilling Australia;
- Lifting productivity;
- Maximising the opportunity of broadband;
- Closing the Gap;
- Sustaining our environment;
- Water and energy efficiency;
- National Food Plan.

The Committee recognises nationally significant policy issues that include:

- Population growth and demographic change;
- Productivity and global competitiveness;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Efficient development and use of existing and new infrastructure assets;
- Connectivity of people to jobs and businesses to markets;
- Development of strategic regional corridors;
- Social inclusion;
- Health, liveability, and community wellbeing;
- Housing affordability; and
- Matters of national environmental significance.

COAG priorities and National Partnership Agreement priorities are the major mechanisms for investment overall. Within this framework, Closing the Gap and Indigenous disadvantage is recognised as a major priority and critically important to the Kimberley region.

State Priorities

State Government agencies have the following priorities:

- Core responsibilities of health, education and housing for ongoing operational investment;
- Major project investments for resources development, such as the Ord Scheme and the Browse Basin;
- Assessment of land and water for development;
- Provision of infrastructure and utilities.

Local Government Priorities

Local Governments focus on the following priorities:

- Funding to secure the sustainability of Local Government;
- Community infrastructure;
- Money for the operation of community infrastructure;

- Waste Management;
- Roads.

The four Kimberley Shires play a significant role in regional community infrastructure projects and all have projects and plans for civic centres, recreational facilities, youth centres and parks under various stages of development.

Contemporary projects include:

- The Shire of Derby West Kimberley progressing a \$2.7 million expansion of a hostel for itinerant and homeless people from 48 to 68 beds; and
- The Shire of Halls Creek undertaking the construction of a Royalties for Regions funded \$1.4 million Aboriginal Art Centre on behalf of the Aboriginal Arts organisation in the town.

All Shires seek funding for multiple projects including:

- The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley seeks funding to relocate its twenty-five year old Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool in addition to upgrading of the Town Hall in Wyndham as a Cyclone Shelter;
- The Shire of Broome seeks to establish a refurbished Kimberley Regional Office Complex and redevelop China Town, in addition to Tramway and Jetty to Jetty Boardwalk projects;
- The Shire of Derby West Kimberley is developing residential land and short stay visitor accommodation; and
- Construction of Youth Centres is proposed for Halls Creek and the remote community of Kundat Djaru.

Operational Constraints

The Kimberley region is one sixth of the total landmass of Western Australia. Ensuring effective consultation with regional stakeholders is challenging as the distance between Broome in the west and Kununurra in the north-east is 1,044 kilometres by road.

Staff of RDA Kimberley includes:

- Chris Mitchell – Executive Officer; and
- Donna Cahill – Administration Officer (part-time).

The region is also covered by the Kimberley Development Commission which has a strong presence in the region, with eight staff in three offices in

Kununurra, Derby and Broome. RDA Kimberley works closely with the Development Commission, and with the Kimberley Zone of Local Government which represents the four Local Government Authorities in the region, to assist with the delivery of the RDA Kimberley work program.

The ability of RDA Kimberley staff to undertake significant actions across the wide scope of issues in the region is limited, as is the number of specific actions able to be taken forward by the Committee. The Executive Officer role provides a facilitation process for programs the Australian Government is offering and engages with partners and key stakeholders to ensure the completion of specific projects.

Role of RDA Kimberley

As an Australian Government initiative, RDA Kimberley is responsible for delivering the outcomes of:

- Enhanced community engagement and consultation:
 - Consulting with regional stakeholders on needs and priorities;
 - Providing a two-way conduit for information and advice between communities and government;
 - Engaging with all levels of government, regional stakeholders and communities in developing solutions to regional needs and priorities.

- Improved regional planning:
 - Developing a strategic regional plan in collaboration with State and Local Governments;
 - Reporting annually against milestones/performance indicators;
 - Contributing to analysis against areas of Australian Government policy.

- Enhanced whole of government approach:
 - Being the first point of contact for Australian Government agency consultations and information about Australian Government services and programs;
 - Contributing to other national agendas from a regional perspective;

- Administering third party contracts for other agencies as appropriate.
- Enhanced community awareness of Government programs:
 - Providing information to regional stakeholders about Australian Government programs;
 - Identifying potential government programs to support regional projects and initiatives;
 - Providing advice and assistance with accessing funding from existing programs towards regional projects.
- Improved community development:
 - Acting as an advocate for the region;
 - Building networks and developing leadership within the region;
 - Brokering solutions that address regional issues and barriers to development;
 - Helping to broker partnerships which address the needs and aspirations of regional communities.

Analysis

Regional analysis is addressed through the following COAG determinants of long-term regional growth:

- Human capital;
- Sustainable communities;
- Access to markets;
- Comparative advantage and business competitiveness.

Human Capital

The Kimberley population is characterised by:

- Small population interspersed over a large area (0.1 person/km²);
- High levels of intra-regional mobility;
- High Aboriginal population;
- Low Aboriginal employment and education;
- Young median age;
- High proportion of disengaged youth.

This profile of the Kimberley regional population is different to most other regions in terms of the challenges and initiatives to grow the region.

The Kimberley population is a high user of supporting social services in a situation where the capacity for service delivery is restricted. The requirements for human capacity building, particularly incorporating Aboriginal engagement, are significant.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to the unique demographics of the Kimberley region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Flexible policy appropriate to the region; – Creativity to generate different and new solutions; – Engaged service delivery.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of work readiness and low take-up of employment by Aboriginal people in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work readiness programs leading to a skilled and capable workforce; – Develop a work culture that focuses on attitude, motivation, support and association of work with a better quality of life; – Engagement with industry to ensure that training is linked into employment requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare dependency and a heavy reliance on transfer payments for many Aboriginal people and many remote communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Welfare reform and programs to encourage increased responsibility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undersupply of skilled labour for regional projects, including resource projects and infrastructure construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Broader range of Vocational Education and Training in remote areas; – Cooperative arrangements between educational institutions and industry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of infrastructure such as shops, cafes, recreation centres, childcare, schools and parks that makes retention of people in the region more difficult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support for quality community infrastructure to underpin the retention of the labour force; – Enhanced growth centre planning to ensure infrastructure and services match growth.

Sustainable Communities

Economic Growth

Key regional issues include:

- Regional labour force demand;
- A regional price index of 120 for the Kimberley region, indicating 20% higher infrastructure and service costs compared to capital city costs;
- Potential for industry diversification, especially across vast pastoral areas;
- Balancing economic growth and environmental protection in an ecologically intact region.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties in attracting investment due to high production costs, low input availability and high risk (all of which flow from operating in a remote region). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Flexible policies leading to increasing economies of scale; – Higher value products and higher value tourism through niche markets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little focus on attracting manufacturing industry to maximise flow-on employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Local purchasing strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High costs of housing and key worker accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Affordable land releases; – New solutions to housing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour market limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – competition with FIFO, – competition from government agencies, – skills and culture in the workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Policies and training that address work readiness; – Encourage Live in – Fly out communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties attracting and retaining staff in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Taxation incentives for Northern Australia.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing economic growth and conservation objectives in a region with significant wilderness and natural assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating development planning processes with environmental assessment at an early stage to identify key management issues and avoid later conflicts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonality of the existing tourism industry, exacerbated by a sub-tropical climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of out of season tourism products.

Environmental

The Kimberley has environmental values of global significance, with unique fauna and flora and frequent identification of undiscovered species. These values have led to the inclusion of the West Kimberley, by the Commonwealth Government, on the National Heritage List. This unique environment underpins the region's major industries of agriculture, resources, pearling and tourism.

The comparative advantage created by the region's environment provides a platform for ecotourism. Development of the environment is both policy and infrastructure dependant. Access to tourism assets and development of new markets in Asia are key regional objectives.

Environmental values provide an important part of the quality of life determinants for regional residents and visitors alike. There is an Aboriginal aspiration for working on traditional lands in conservation and land management that is increasingly recognised.

In 2011, the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* were endorsed by the State Government to provide a strategic path for conservation of the Kimberley's natural and cultural values whilst recognising the potential economic growth opportunities for the region. The strategy outlines the following critical points of growth:

- Development of rich offshore petroleum resources;
- Expansion of the Ord Irrigation Scheme;
- Population growth and settlement expansion;
- Increasing international profile; and
- Increasing visitor numbers.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining the Kimberley's natural assets against competing uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ability to sell the Kimberley as the last true wilderness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of control over water security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expansion of agriculture and population in the region so that the asset is used to expand the economic base.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High cost of energy, especially for regional towns, remote communities and isolated industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Renewable energy resources, including tidal, wind and solar power, and carbon farming.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncontrolled fire causing loss of biodiversity, accelerated erosion and weed issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Partnerships with Aboriginal land managers and government agencies in fire prevention and management practices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change impacts, exacerbated by significant tidal fluctuations in coastal areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective planning and risk management processes; Improved fire management practices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced flora and fauna, including plant threats, feral animals and the westwards spread of the cane toad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and development of measures to reduce feral populations.

Social

Significant social challenges arise from the unique demographics and the remoteness of the Kimberley region.

There is a strong disparity in a range of socio-economic indicators between the Aboriginal and the non-Aboriginal population, reflecting major challenges in education, health, housing and employment.

The dispersed nature of the regional population creates challenges across all aspects of service delivery, with provision of services to remote communities as a particularly vexing issue.

The provision of affordable housing for low and middle income earners is critical, with home ownership in the region at 32% compared to the State

average of 69%. State owned or community housing accounts for 38% of the regional rental market, in the face of high community demand.

Projected economic and population growth from key industries will result in further significant social impact in regional hubs unless adequate funding is available for infrastructure and community development.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of affordable housing outside of the major centres of Broome and Kununurra. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initiatives that increase the supply of transitional housing; Provision of alternate housing products based on different land tenure models; Increasing participation in shared home equity ownership schemes; Maximise Aboriginal skills development and employment in housing construction programs; Support the development of short stay accommodation facilities and short-term worker accommodation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing demand for health services across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interagency collaboration for service delivery; Enhanced community engagement and employment of health consumers; Further improvement of hospital and health services infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant primary health issues including high rates of smoking and alcohol consumption in the non-Aboriginal population and foetal alcohol spectrum disorders, diabetes, dental and ear issues in the Aboriginal population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater focus on primary health initiatives for awareness, education, health promotion and counselling; Improved collaboration through the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing an education service that is comparable with metropolitan schools at all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide awareness of the specialist needs of the student population of the Kimberley; Lift educational standards and curriculum options across the region.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing the gap on Aboriginal disadvantage in living standards, life expectancy, education, health and employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support existing agencies in the delivery of initiatives to Close the Gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations, particularly in relation to health and education; – Build regional leadership initiatives.

Access to Markets

The development of regional infrastructure is critical to the development of the region and the role of public / private partnership arrangements will continue to be central to development of the regional economy.

Low relative populations and small area economies result in low utilisation rates on some infrastructure. As a result, common user infrastructure in the region continues to be predominantly provided via the public sector.

Distance and geography of the Kimberley impact on transport infrastructure as labour, construction material, maintenance, fuel and operation costs are high. Planning for the region's severe weather events also increases infrastructure costs.

The development of land and water resources in the region would encounter high development costs and approvals risk.

The Australian Government focus on the development of Northern Australian presents an opportunity for further infrastructure development, diversification of the regional economy and an increasing focus on the commercial development, transport logistics and market relationships that are available and maturing with Asia.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limitations in communications, including deficits in broadband speed and access, mobile phone and data coverage and relatively high costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased competition; – Increase in new technology; – Increased education and training through e-health, e-commerce and e-banking; – Options for virtual workplace operations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity of Broome, Derby and Wyndham ports to support the growth of diversified industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Transport diversification, such as coastal shipping to increase modal competition and remove oversize freight from roads; – Increase the capacity to ship bulk goods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing road infrastructure is expensive to maintain and construct, has seasonal access and maintenance challenges and has safety issues in light of increased heavy usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased investment by resource companies, to decrease the cost of road infrastructure and maintenance; – Seek wider support for the funding responsibilities for roads to remote communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of connectivity and relatively high costs of air transport within the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased competition for major routes; – Incentives for increased connectivity between major centres within the region.

Comparative Advantage and Business Competitiveness

The development opportunity created by the global demand for the region's resources, global food security and proximity to Asia are yet to be fully embraced. As the region develops improved logistics networks and key transport infrastructure, access to the Asian market will become an important focus for future economic development.

The Kimberley has significant resource potential and is considered under explored. Strategically valuable minerals, oil, offshore gas and increasingly onshore gas at a global scale will all heavily impact on future development and provide regional competitive advantage.

The quantity of divertible surface water and ground water reserves are nationally significant and coincide with appropriate agricultural soil types in some locations. Climatic conditions provide the capacity for regional agriculture to exploit 'out of season' production windows. The capacity to develop these resources in the context of global food security provides a highly influential development opportunity that is gaining State and National focus.

The Kimberley has significant renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Water resources and agricultural by-product generated energy provide significant regional scale opportunities to leverage development of land and water resources.

A unique natural environment provides a strong basis for a sustainable tourism industry capable of delivering benefits to some of the most remote localities in the region. Partnerships with Traditional Owners offer the opportunity to develop innovative economic benefits for the region and for Aboriginal people.

<i>Challenge / Issue</i>	<i>Opportunity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost of construction due to labour market, land costs, transport and weather impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Innovation in construction methods and techniques; – Greater economies of scale in major products.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost of living and a heavily constrained private housing market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Investment into a transitional housing model; – Increase liveability and satisfaction for regional residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreasing pastoral exports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land use diversification including fodder, herd changes and processing through local abattoirs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties in workforce retention due to wages competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promotion of the quality of life benefits that are unique to the region; – Training of overseas workers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of critical mass of population across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased regional growth centres; – Increased service and access in regional centres; – Increased investment into major projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remoteness that impacts business services and freight cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Capitalise through the marketing of tourism; – Take advantage of the proximity to Asia.

Action Agenda

Regional Intent

The vision for the Kimberley region has been developed with stakeholders over the previous three years.

In these sessions, RDA Kimberley has listened for a vision that reflects an achievable, realistic target whilst remaining ambitious and inspiring. Often, the responses have been framed in terms of employment, enterprise and financial viability. However these descriptions are really outcome statements rather than the environment that is to be created.

From all of the input, RDA Kimberley is guided by the following vision:

Our vision is to:

Create an environment of opportunity through collaboration.

Our core themes are:

Education and skills development; economic development; closing the gap; housing; health; environment; and youth and early childhood.

We are determined to create an alternative future where challenges are satisfied and opportunities inherent in the responsible development of the unique resources of the region are maximised for regional benefit.

Regional Priorities

The regional priorities for RDA Kimberley cover the seven themes listed below:

- Education and Skills Development;
- Economic Development;
- Closing the Gap;
- Housing;

- Health;
- Environment; and
- Youth and Early Childhood.

The regional priorities are:

Education and Skills Development

For the Kimberley, education and skills development is a major pathway for individual development and regional competitiveness. Families send their children out of the region to complete their secondary schooling or in some cases, families move to other major centres to access better schooling opportunities.

At the same time only 42% of Kimberley students complete Year 12 studies compared to 53% for the State, with only 21% of Aboriginal students completing Year 12 compared to 55% of non-Aboriginal students.

To address this priority, the strategies are:

- Lift educational opportunities and curriculum diversity in the region:
 - Advocate for a full Year 12 curriculum at Derby and Kununurra District High Schools;
 - Expand secondary and post-secondary curriculum to include growing industries such as agriculture, mining, environment and resource industries such as oil and gas;
 - Diversify tertiary sector offerings to include industry sectors that require professional qualifications;
- Improve education and training pathways to achieve employment outcomes:
 - Focus on life skills training and pathways to employment through mentors, support programs and on the job training;
- Improve education opportunities by access to appropriate and affordable student / trainee accommodation in centres such as Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra:
 - Commission a demand feasibility study;
 - Build partnerships to document the evidence for funding submissions.

Economic Development

For the Kimberley, the development of regional infrastructure is a critical enabler for regional development. The options are identified in the whole of region *Kimberley Planning and Infrastructure Framework* and the required step is to build consensus on the priorities.

The regional economy is currently reliant on the mining and energy sectors and development of new resources will continue this trend. However, the Kimberley has significant opportunities to grow the tourism industry, to increase the productivity of the pastoral industry, and to develop an expanded irrigated agriculture sector based on the Cockatoo Sands region north east of Kununurra and the La Grange area south of Broome.

To achieve this growth, the strategies are:

- Advocate for the provision of targeted and regionally strategic infrastructure:
 - Facilitate a local 'all of Government' agreement on infrastructure priorities;
- Maintain and encourage a diverse economic base:
 - Raise awareness of new products and opportunities;
 - Invest into the feasibility of new industries;
 - Remove barriers for business growth and diversification to occur;
- Value-add to assist in improved return on investment and lowered business investment risk:
 - Encourage entrepreneurship within the region;
 - Mitigate business risk for value adding industries through policy and practice change;
- Maximise local employment and small business flow-on:
 - Build local employment strategies into major projects;
 - Enhance training and education to cater to workforce and industry expectations.

Closing the Gap

The Kimberley region is unique in terms of its Aboriginal population making up 43.5% of the regional population. Although some Aboriginal people in the Kimberley have a high standard of living, the regional indicators for the Aboriginal population show that:

- The median age is 12 years younger;
- Life expectancy is 12 years less for Aboriginal men and 10 years less for Aboriginal women;
- The median personal weekly income is 23% of the non-Aboriginal personal weekly income;
- The average number of people in a household is just under double non-Aboriginal households;
- Overcrowding is around six times worse than non-Aboriginal housing;
- The vast majority of Aboriginal people are CDEP participants and eight times as many Aboriginal people are registered job seekers.

To address this comprehensive disadvantage, the major strategy is:

- Meet the COAG RASC prioritised targets for the region:
 - Promote early intervention parenting support and other life skills education initiatives;
 - Housing linked to employment and education;
 - Improve education delivery to children.

Housing

Housing remains a critical impediment to attracting workforce, growing the economy and improving the quality of life in smaller towns and remote communities in the region. It is consistently ranked as a priority challenge in community consultations and the 2011 Regional Price Index confirms that in some areas such as Derby, housing costs are 80% higher than Perth and private rent indices are close to 360% higher than Perth.

To address this challenge, the strategies are:

- Improve remote and social housing delivery:
 - Identify and confirm the demand for remote social housing;
- Creative modelling to close the gap between social housing, home ownership and affordable private rental:

- Expand transitional housing models and key worker housing initiatives;
- Continue to advocate for further social housing funding.

Health

Despite the challenges of service delivery in a large and remote region, the health sector provides a high level of quality care to its regional population.

One of the major challenges is in primary health as a comparison with the other 55 RDA regions in Australia ranks the Kimberley region 46th in terms of the population risk factors of smoking, alcohol consumption, inactivity and rates of obesity. It is likely that these factors coupled with diabetes, dental and ear issues may be even more prevalent in the smaller towns and remote communities.

To further improve health in the region, the strategies are:

- Maintain the focus on improving health standards in remote communities:
 - Provision of mobile facilities for remote communities;
 - Engage with health professionals to identify key strategies and develop a clearer understanding of effective RDA involvement;
- Continued investment in improved regional health facilities;
- Support healthy living programs:
 - Provide sport and recreation opportunities and facilities;
 - Focus on diet as a fundamental platform for healthy living programs.

Environment

The environment and natural assets of the Kimberley provide the region with a competitive advantage, especially in terms of growing the tourism industry.

In terms of balancing the Kimberley's natural and cultural values with the potential for economic growth, a good planning framework is in place (the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*).

Reflecting this Strategy, the focus for the region is:

- Balance competing uses to preserve a unique landscape:
 - Stay true to the wilderness brand;
 - Improved management of land tenure and usage;
 - Better use of water assets;
 - Maximise renewable energy options;
 - Engage with Local Governments to enhance waste management and recovery opportunities;
 - Control of introduced feral pests;
 - Expand knowledge through research and development.

Youth and Early Childhood

Given the relative youth and the high population growth rate in the Kimberley region, attention to early childhood and youth support measures are a strategic response to address quality of life issues over the longer term.

For youth and early childhood, the strategy is:

- Advocate for early childhood centres and preschools:
 - Collaborate with the Kimberley Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plan and the Department of Communities to review and advocate for an expansion of places and facilities,
 - Engage with the Training Council to improve employment conditions to attract and retain qualified youth and early childhood workers.

Implementation Mechanisms

RDA Kimberley will work with all relevant stakeholders in a realistic and collaborative manner to implement this Regional Plan.

The implementation of strategies for RDA Kimberley involves four main phases, as summarised in the diagram below. The process is not static and all components of the model rely on previous phases.

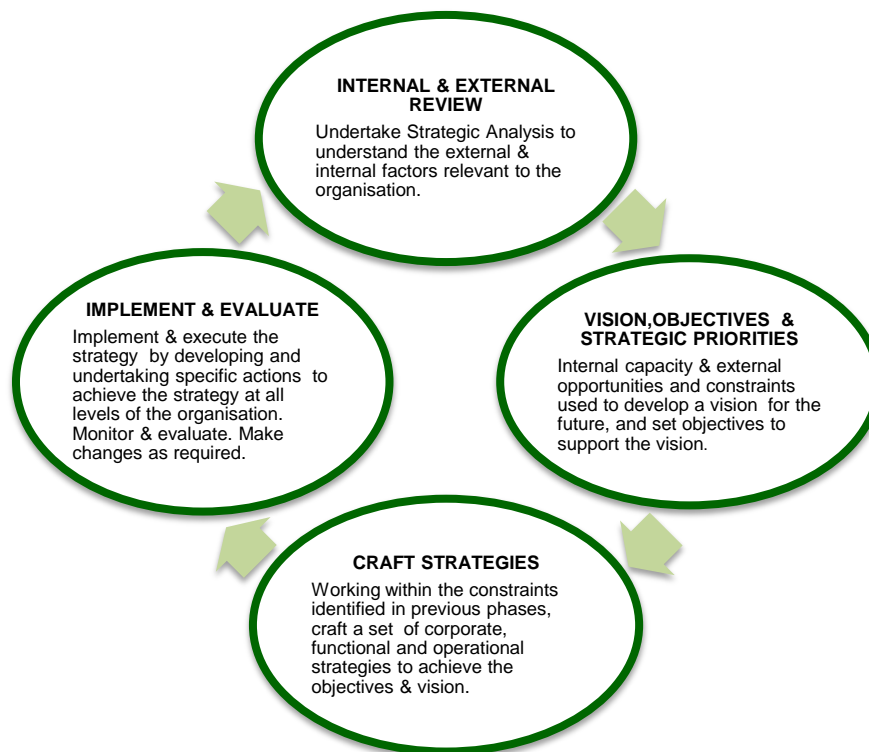


Figure 2: Strategic Management Process.

Using this approach to strategic management, supported by ongoing review, RDA Kimberley is able to develop:

- A means of refining the vision that accurately describes the future;
- A framework to develop goals and objectives based on the vision;
- A range of appropriate strategies for all levels of the organisation, supporting the objectives and vision;
- A set of strategic performance measures that will enable evaluation of the success of the chosen strategies and will trigger the necessary review of strategy and corrective actions to changing circumstances.

All of these components are included in the RDA Kimberley Business Plan.

Monitoring and Review

The performance of this Regional Plan needs to be assessed against its effectiveness in achieving high priority goals and performance targets. Performance measures are operational in nature, and thus will be detailed in the annual Business Plan. The performance of the organisation in terms of its strategic goals will be reviewed annually and the goals will be refined if necessary.

In the context of RDA Kimberley, the annual review processes will be formalised:

- Direct consultation with key stakeholders and Government regarding the plan and its effectiveness;
- Annual strategic planning workshops with the Committee to review progress against KPIs;
- Inclusion of new regional developments or improvements to the way the plan is implemented.

The focus of the monitoring and review process is to use the information collected to improve performance and ensure effectiveness in delivering what is required. This process leads to the following continuous improvement cycle:

1. **Plan:**
Plan what the organisation wants to achieve, eg: develop objectives, then plan the tasks or activities required to get there.
2. **Do:**
Implement what was planned.
3. **Review:**
Look at what happened during the implementation, and examine whether the results were as expected and if not, work out why the planned results were not achieved.
4. **Act:**
This requires new planning with new knowledge obtained through the previous steps.

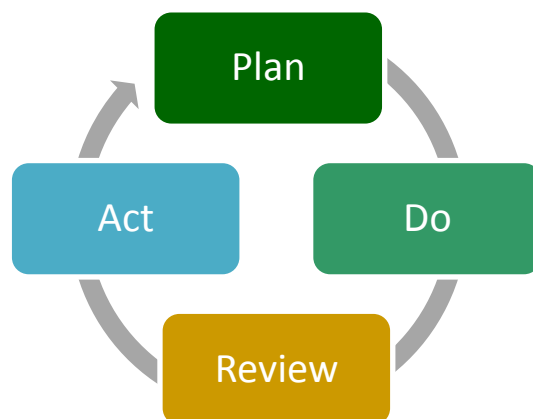


Figure 3 Continuous Improvement Cycle.

Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BRACS	The Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme
COAG RASC	The Council of Australian Governments Regional Australia Standing Council
CDEP	Community Development Employment Program
GRP	Gross Regional Product
GST	Gross State Product
KDC	Kimberley Development Commission
KLC	Kimberley Land Council
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LGA	Local Government Association
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MG Corp	Mirriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation
ORIA	Ord River Irrigation Area
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDAF	Regional Development Australia Fund
RPI	Regional Price Index
SWEK	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
WA	Western Australia

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Appendix I - Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Regional Plan Kimberley (2011 and 2012)

KPP Business Development was commissioned to undertake the development of this plan. A workshop was held with RDA Kimberley Committee Members in May 2010 in which key priorities and goals were identified for the region, based on the Committee's combined expertise and understanding of the region.

Desk research and collation was an integral part of this document, and a review of some 104 strategic plans produced for the region across all levels of Government was conducted. A database and brief summary of the identified reports has been created so that future studies in any of these categories can be directed to previous work and thus reduce the number of reports being funded and produced. Due to the sheer numbers of plans, they were categorised into nine areas:

- Business (15 plans)
- Tourism (4)
- Education (14)
- Health (6)
- Housing (3)
- Indigenous (27)
- Infrastructure (2)
- Resources (7)
- General (26)

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

As the first step, a facilitated workshop was held in November 2010 with the Kimberley Zone of Councils, the Kimberley Development Commission and the RDA Kimberley Committee in Halls Creek. Outcomes from this meeting resulted in the identification of additional regional priorities that could be addressed through Commonwealth, State and Local Government collaboration.

Further community input and consultation was conducted through four regional forums in May 2011 (two in the East Kimberley and two in the West Kimberley) to gain community input to the Kimberley Regional Plan. At each workshop, participants were provided with a briefing on the role of RDA, an outline of the process for developing the plan and the opportunities available for funding of priority projects.

Participants then rotated around seven tables (according to the seven priorities of the draft Regional Plan) and added input to large sheets on each priority. An overall summary was then provided for each priority area. From this consultation, the detailed input from each workshop was utilised in the development of a table in Section 3.5 on Key Issues, Goals and Strategies – How to Make It Happen.

Since the release of the RDA Kimberley Regional Plan (2011), a survey of RDA Health and Education Priorities has been completed. The survey was developed to provide the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport with further information on the health, education and skills priorities of RDAs. Following on from this survey, discussions were held between RDA Kimberley and a number of organisations including the Regional Education Department, the Kimberley Training Institute, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the Remote and Rural Education Advisory Council, the District Health Advisory Committee, WA Country Health, Boab Health Services and the Broome Hospital. As a result of these discussions, a number of additional issues were identified and were incorporated into the table in Section 3.5 in the updated RDA Kimberley Regional Plan (2012).

In addition, prior to the annual review of the 2012 document, further discussion was conducted at workshops and forums with key regional stakeholders and agencies to ensure that all regional priorities were addressed. Such events included the Kimberley Training Institute Strategic Planning Workshops, Remote and Rural Education Advisory Council meetings held in Broome and Fitzroy Crossing that were facilitated by RDA Kimberley, the North West Expo 2012 where the Regional Plan was discussed and promoted with the community, the Kimberley Economic Forum, Carbon Farming Initiative Workshops held in Broome and Kununurra, the Broome Chamber of Commerce After Hours event where the Regional Plan was promoted, and Grant Writing Workshops held in Kununurra, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Broome where details regarding the Regional Plan, in particular the importance of the regional priorities were discussed.

Regional Plan Kimberley (2013 – 2016)

The current document has been built on the foundation of the previous Regional Plans and consultation processes. The RDA Kimberley Committee has reviewed the achievement and relevance of the previous Plans as an essential starting point.

Collaboration with the Kimberley Development Commission has been strengthened during the development of the current RDA Regional Plan. The Deputy Director of the Kimberley Development Commission sits on the RDA Kimberley Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of the Development Commission has been actively involved in regional planning workshops held by the RDA Kimberley Committee. Furthermore, the Acting Chair of the RDA Kimberley Committee sits on the Project Steering Group that oversees the development of the Regional Investment Blueprint by the Kimberley Development Commission. The Blueprint is a comprehensive and recent review of all regional development documentation on the Kimberley region and the findings from Stage One (the preliminary stocktake and analysis of existing plans, strategies, infrastructure and investment activity in the Kimberley region) have generously been made available to RDA Kimberley for the development of the current Regional Plan Kimberley (2013 – 2016).

A series of RDA Kimberley Committee workshops have been conducted by Bevan Bessen (Tuna Blue Long Haul Facilitation) to assist the Committee to review, analyse and determine refined regional priorities. The draft Regional Plan Kimberley (2013 – 2016) has been circulated to key stakeholders for comment, prior to finalisation.

Appendix II - Regional Profile

Regional Summary

The Executive Summary and the Regional Overview emphasise the following characteristics of the region:

- Area of 419,558 square kilometres which is one sixth of the area of Western Australia;
- Population of 37,673 people with an annual growth rate of 2.6%;
- Aboriginal population of 43.5% compared to 3.4% State-wide;
- Over 190 Aboriginal communities and outstations and 31 of the 100 pastoral properties in the Kimberley are Aboriginal owned and operated;
- Total Gross Regional Product of \$3.1 billion in 2010/11, with mining accounting for 36% or \$1.1 billion;
- Tourism worth \$332 million in 2012 as an important and growing industry sector.

More detailed indicators are shown below:

Population

For the entire region, the age distribution by indigenous status is shown in Figure 1, indicating a higher proportion of young indigenous people compared to non-indigenous people (under 25 years), and the opposite situation in the 25 to 64 year old age groupings.

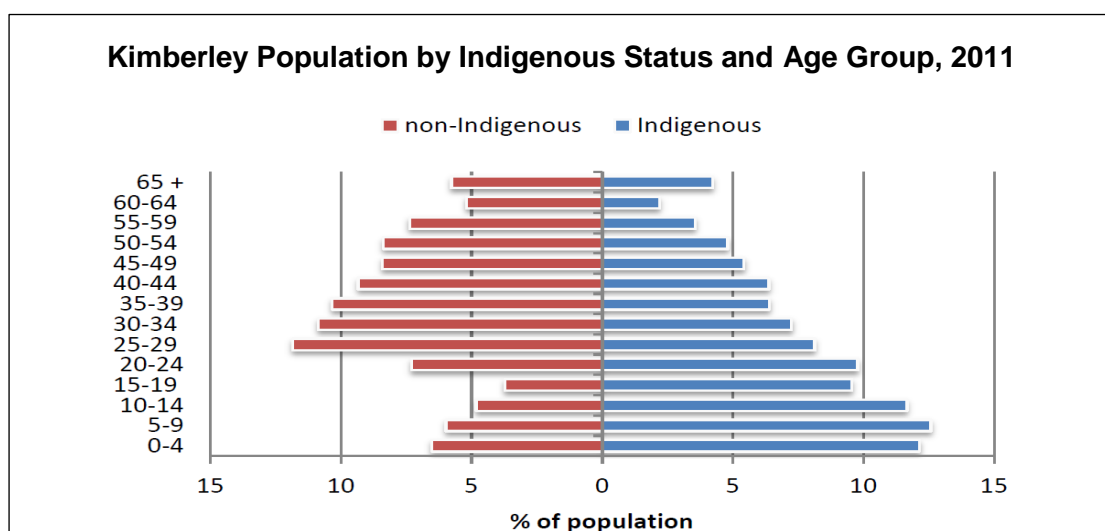


Figure 1: Population demographics by Indigenous status and age group.
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Workforce

In terms of the labour force, unemployment varies significantly between Local Government Areas. It is important to note that employment figures for the region include employment through the CDEP program in which there is significant participation by individuals throughout the region.

June 2013 employment statistics indicate an unemployment rate of around 8.3% across the Kimberley. June 2013 unemployment data is presented in Table 1, by Shire.

<i>Shire</i>	<i>Unemployment – June 2013</i>
Broome	5.9%
Derby West Kimberley	9.2%
Halls Creek	21.1%
Wyndham East Kimberley	7.7%

Source: DEEWR Small Area Labour Markets data, June 2013

Based on the 2011 ABS Census data, the indigenous population accounts for 22% of jobs held by people in the region, and the unemployment rate for the indigenous population is 15.3%. CDEP accounts for a large proportion of indigenous employment in remote communities. The Census outcome also shows that only 44% of the Indigenous population is in the labour force, compared to the State-wide average of 50%. Given the continuation of the CDEP program across the region, there is no evidence that these figures have improved since the 2011 ABS Census. Indeed CDEP remains the primary source of income for the vast majority of indigenous people of working age.

Income

The average taxable income has been increasing steadily within the Kimberley, reaching \$59,099 as at 30 June 2010.

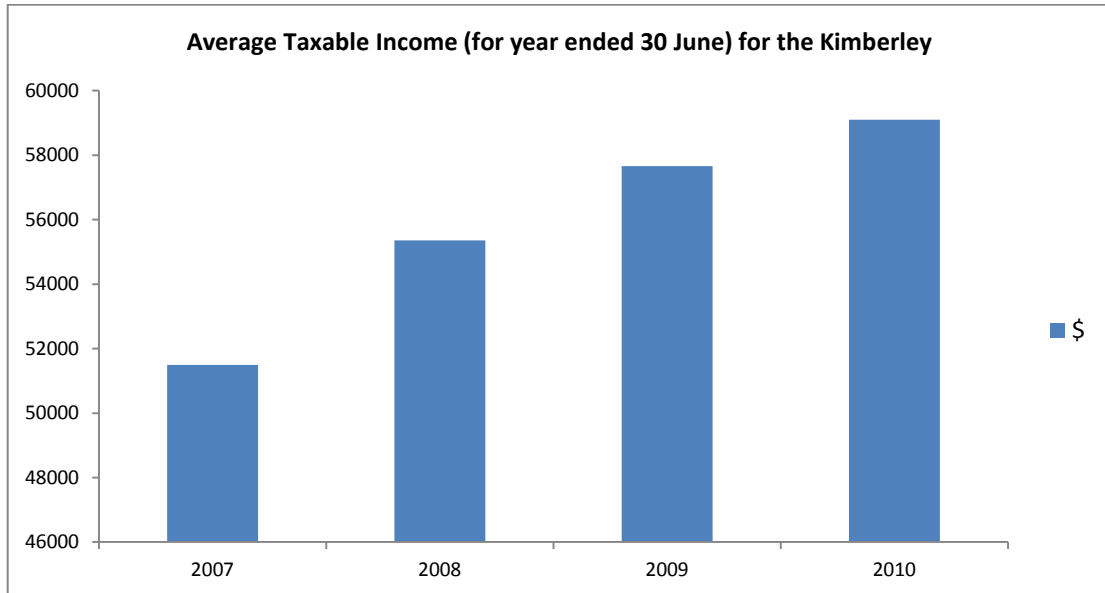


Figure 2: Average annual taxable income for the Kimberley Region.
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013.

Detailed Profiles

Due to the scale of the Kimberley and the very distinctive profile of each Local Government area, the detailed regional profile is presented under this structure.

The Kimberley region of Western Australia has four Local Government areas (LGAs):

- Shire of Broome;
- Shire of Derby West Kimberley (DWK);
- Shire of Halls Creek (HC); and
- Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK).

The populations of each LGA are presented in the graph below (Figure 3).

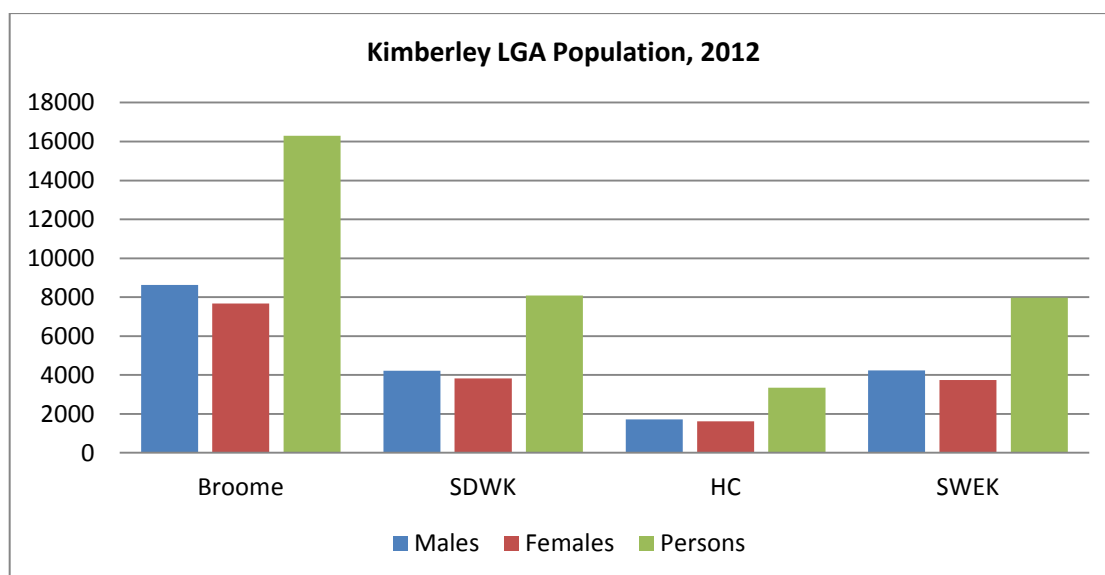


Figure 3: Kimberley population by Local Government area, 2012.
Source: Kimberley Development Commission.

Shire of Broome

The Shire of Broome is within the coastal, semi-arid north-western margin of the Canning Basin. Approximately 42.5% of the Kimberley's total resident population lives in the Shire of Broome (ABS, 2011). The Shire covers an area of approximately 56,000 km² and effectively includes the coastline from

80-Mile Beach to the Dampier Peninsula (Saltwater Country) and the north western area of the Great Sandy Desert (Desert Country).

Perth is approximately 2,200 km to the south of Broome; Broome to Kununurra is 1,047 km; whilst Darwin is approximately 1,100 km via road to the north east of Kununurra.

The population of the LGA is approximately 16,031, of which 48.9% is female, and 32% were identified as being indigenous Australians (ABS, 2011).

The language profile shows only a minor component of the population who speak another language other than English at home, with 80.1% indicating they speak only English at home and the rest comprising an international mix of languages and two indigenous languages, Kriol (0.7%) and Bardi (0.8%).

Broome

Broome is considered to have a multi-cultural ancestry, with a population of people derived from Aboriginal, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, English, German, Afghan and Philippino backgrounds. Whilst not indicated within the current census demographic profile, it is a reflection of migration to the Shire at the turn of the century during early pearling and mission days. Many local people still proudly acknowledge their mixed ancestry (Shire of Broome, 2007).

The town of Broome is principally recognised as a pearling and tourist town, but also is a hub from which services have historically been delivered to the pastoral industry and more recently the oil and gas sector.

The development of the Browse Basin Gas reserves, an area of approximately 140,000 km² located entirely offshore, north of Broome in the Ashmore and Scott Reef, has resulted in significant increases in Broome Port activity.

The Broome International Airport is the regional hub of and gateway for tourism into the Kimberley region. Broome's population fluctuates from around 16,000 in the wet season and is estimated to more than double in the dry season (May to September) due to the influx of tourists.

Broome is situated on the traditional lands of the Yaruwu people, with whom the WA State Government has recently reached landmark indigenous land use agreements (ILUA). These agreements pave the way for the Broome North housing initiative, which will see the release of around 4,800 new residential blocks and associated commercial and community zoned areas

over the next ten years. The land release is expected to relieve some pressure on the town's significant housing affordability problem and should increase the scope for the provision of much needed social housing projects. With the native title agreement resolved in and around Broome with the Yawuru traditional owners, and an ILUA in place, there is another 2,000 residential blocks to be developed.

Broome's annual rainfall average is 600.3 mm, 76% of which falls from January through March. The climate of the broader bio-geographical area of Broome and the Dampier Peninsula is described as dry hot tropical and semi-arid with summer rainfall. The average annual rainfall across the region is between 450-750 mm. Though the rainfall in Broome is not as reliable or abundant as other parts of the region, agricultural and pastoral enterprises in the Shire benefit from accessible artesian water reserves linked to the extensive Canning Basin.

Dampier Peninsula

A large proportion of the Shire of Broome's indigenous population lives on the Dampier Peninsula, approximately 150-200 km north of the town. Around 1,700 people are estimated to reside in one of more than 50 small indigenous communities and outstations situated on the Peninsula, the main and most populous communities offering the greatest number of services being Ardyaloon, Djarindjin and Beagle Bay. Members of these communities come from the Goolarabooloo, Jabirr Jabirr, Bardi and Jawi Traditional Owner groups.

There is limited commercial activity on the Peninsula and it is seen by visitors as an ideal leisure destination due to the underdeveloped nature of the coastline and healthy marine ecosystems. This Peninsula is also expected to deliver a number of new and interesting indigenous tourism products, as services to and visitation of the area increases.

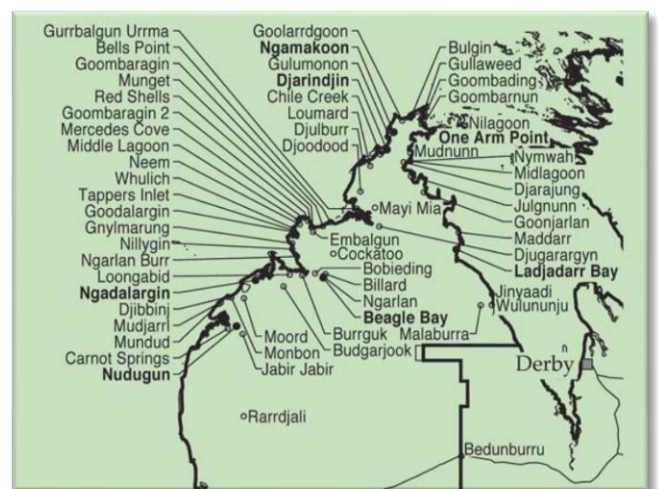


Figure 5: Dampier Peninsular Communities.

The management of natural resources and the implementation of adequate planning protocols for communities and essential services on the Peninsula is expected to be a priority for the Shire over the coming years.

Beagle Bay and Ardyaloon are two of four COAG sites in the State focused on “Closing the Gap”, with activity and investment in key areas including early childhood, schooling, health, economic participation, healthy homes, safe communities, governance and leadership.

Shire of Derby - West Kimberley

The Shire of Derby West Kimberley covers an area of 118,560 km² and has an estimated resident population of 9,240, of which 58.9% are male and 41.1% are female (ABS, 2011). It is estimated that 53% of the population is of indigenous descent, which compares with 3.4% for Western Australia (ABS, 2011). The Shire has the second lowest median age of population in the State (28.8 years) and nearly a quarter of its population is aged between 0-14 years of age (ABS, 2011).

In the 2011 ABS Census, English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 45.8% of persons usually resident in the LGA. The most common languages other than English spoken at home were: Kriol 15.8%, Walmajarri 5.0%, Bunuba 1.0%, Ngarinyin 0.9%, Nyikina 0.6% and Gooniyandi 0.5% (ABS, 2011 Census QuickStats).

The median weekly individual income for persons aged 15 years and over who were usual residents in the LGA was \$409, compared with \$577 in Australia. The median weekly family income was \$1,048, compared with \$1,481 in Australia (ABS, 2011).

Key economic drivers include the pastoral industry, government services, mining, tourism industries and the development of the Derby Regional Prison.

Derby

Derby is 2,300 km north of Perth and has an estimated resident population of 4,500. It is the central hub of the Shire, from which Broome is 220 km, the Kalumburu Road turnoff is 415 km and the town of Fitzroy Crossing is 258 km. Residents of Derby are principally engaged in providing services to the pastoral, mining and tourism industries, and there is a substantial service

industry that has developed around the delivery of government contracts to Aboriginal communities.

Derby is on Salt Water Country, and was traditionally a port town; it has one of the largest tidal variations in the world, making port facilities difficult and dangerous to access by sea. The Shire Council has expressed a keen interest in seeing port-related activity increase and have been strongly advocating for the establishment of a supply base at Port Torment to service the Browse Basin petroleum projects. Many Shire residents anticipate significant economic growth in the region if initiatives to expand shipping services to better cater to the resource industries are progressed. A new regional prison for 130 male and 30 female prisoners was completed in October 2012 and has brought significant flow-on economic benefits to the town.

In terms of tourism, Derby is promoted as the gateway to the Gibb River Road and the Buccaneer Archipelago, two of the region's principal tourist attractions.

More than fifty three (53) Aboriginal communities are serviced from the town of Derby, as well as a number of smaller outstations, which have a transient, seasonal occupancy.

Fitzroy Crossing

The town of Fitzroy Crossing is River Country, located on the banks of the Fitzroy River, approximately 2,500 km north of Perth and roughly halfway between Halls Creek and Derby. The catchment area of the upper reaches of the Fitzroy River, referred to as the 'Fitzroy Valley', comprises a range of fertile soil types. These areas have been used extensively for livestock and horticultural production.

At the time of the 2011 ABS Census, the town of Fitzroy Crossing had an estimated population of 1,144, with a further 1,108 people resident in the surrounding Aboriginal communities or outstations in 'the Valley'. These figures do not take into consideration the undercount from the census and as such are expected to be a fraction higher.

Fitzroy Crossing has been named one of four Western Australian COAG "Closing the Gap" sites, where significant investment into indigenous communities is being implemented focusing on reforms in key areas, or

'building blocks', including early childhood, schooling, health, economic participation, healthy homes, safe communities, governance and leadership.

The ratio of indigenous to non-indigenous people in the Fitzroy Valley is estimated in the area of 80:20 but within the town itself, approximately 72% of residents are reported to be non-indigenous. These figures are heavily impacted by seasonal movements of local people from outlying communities, with people often choosing to spend the wet season in town. The indigenous population of the Fitzroy Valley is comprised mainly of members of the four main indigenous language groups (Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Walmajarri and Wangkatjungka).

Rainfall in the Fitzroy Valley ranges from 500 to 800 mm. The Fitzroy River is one of the largest in the country, stretching 525 km across the southern area of the Shire. At the height of a wet season, the mouth of the Fitzroy River can be 10 km wide and at this time, it surpasses all other rivers in the Country in terms of sheer volume of water passing through the system.

Shire of Wyndham, East Kimberley

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley covers an area of 121,000 km² and has an estimated resident population of 8,371, which is comprised of 51.9% males and 48.1% females (ABS, 2011).

In the 2011 Census, English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 79.5% of persons usually resident in the Wyndham-East Kimberley Local Government Area. The most common languages other than English spoken at home were: Miriwoong 1.1%, Kija 0.6%, German 0.8%, Kija 0.6%, Korean 0.6% and Murrinh Patha 0.4% (ABS, 2011 Census QuickStats).

Kununurra

The town of Kununurra is River Country and is approximately 3,200 km north of Perth and 1,100 km from Darwin, and in the 2011 Census it had a resident population of 5,679. The town was formed in the 1960's as a result of a massive project to dam the Ord River to create Lake Argyle, enabling irrigation of the fertile black soil plains that surround that area and the creation of the Ord Irrigation Area (ORIA).

Today, Lake Argyle is Australia's second largest artificial (man-made) lake by volume, and has facilitated the development of 14,000 hectares of farming

land. The average capacity of the lake is 10,763,000 mega litres but at maximum flood level, the lake would hold 35 million mega litres of water and cover a surface area of 2,072 square kilometres.

ORIA farmland is presently producing mangoes, citrus, watermelons, rock melons, pumpkin, chickpeas, sorghum, numerous seed varieties, sandalwood and chia. Past agricultural crops have included bananas, sugar cane, rice and cotton.

The Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project is a large scale endeavour that will see an additional 13,400 hectares of agricultural land released in the lower Ord River region, and a program of improvement for social, community and common-use infrastructure. Around \$415 million has been allocated through a National Partnership, and has two main components:

1. East Kimberley Development Package (EKDP) - \$195 million from the Commonwealth Government's Nation Building stimulus package; and
2. Ord Irrigation Expansion Project (OIEP) - \$322 million from the WA Government's Royalties for Regions fund. The OIEP plans to increase the agricultural land area from 14,000 to 28,000 hectares.

As traditional owners of the area to be developed, the Miriuwung Gajerrong People are signatories to the Ord Final Agreement (OFA) formed with funding from the OIEP, and consisting of a broad package of measures which implement a platform for future partnerships between the Miriuwung Gajerrong People, WA State Government, industry and developers for the benefit of the wider community and the East Kimberley Region. The OFA resulted in an Aboriginal Development Package Heads of Agreement between the State Government and MG Corporation.

Whilst agriculture is the focus of many development projects, the resources sector is a significant contributor to the regional economy of the East Kimberley. Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine has been in operation since the 1980s and in 2003, announced plans to develop an underground operation. This project has progressed as planned and effectively extends the life of the mine to at least 2018.

Kununurra services approximately 33 Aboriginal communities. Traditional owners of the Keep River National Park area and Turkey Creek (Warmun) also use Kununurra as a central service hub.

Wyndham

Wyndham was established in 1886 as a port town and the principal point of entry for people looking to exploit gold deposits that were discovered further south, near Halls Creek. The gold rush was relatively short-lived but the port town of Wyndham continued to service the growing pastoral industry of the region.

An estimated 1003 people are resident in Wyndham today but, as with most northern regional towns, it is the central hub to a number of indigenous communities whose members often base themselves in the town for the wet season. The 2011 Census revealed that 51.2% of the total town population was male. In Wyndham, 51.0% of people were indigenous (ABS, 2011).

Port operations are a key economic driver, and include the importation of fuel and ammonium nitrate (for use in the region's mining operations), live cattle export, nickel and iron ore.

Wyndham, like Kununurra, is surrounded by cliffs and gorges, and it is located at the point at which five rivers flow into the Cambridge Gulf. The Cambridge Gulf is a massive waterway that provides commercial shipping access from the Indian Ocean to the Wyndham Port as well access to recreational mariners and commercial fishing operators.

Traditional owners of the Wilinggin Claim and Balanagarra members are the primary Traditional Owners of the land area that encompasses the town of Wyndham and services from the town are provided to 9 main Aboriginal communities and a number of smaller outstations, which are often abandoned for the wet season. Members of the Ngarinyin and Nykina groups are also resident in the town.

Shire of Halls Creek

The Shire of Halls Creek comprises 117,820 km² of desert country and pastoral grazing land, with a number of unique natural attractions forming the basis of a tourism industry. The Shire has an estimated population of 4,031, of which 58.9% are female. It is estimated that 80% of people are indigenous Australians (ABS, 2011).

The Shire is promoted for its proximity to key natural attractions including the World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park, the gateway to the Tanami

Track, Wolfe Creek Crater and the wide open spaces of the Great Sandy Desert. Halls Creek is 362 km south of Kununurra, 1,288 km south-west of Darwin and 2,873 km north-east of Perth.

Statistics released in the 2011 ABS Census indicates a young population, with 30.0% of the population being children aged between 0-14 years. The median age of persons in Halls Creek was 26 years, compared with 28 years for the Kimberley, and 37 years for persons in Australia.

The most common languages other than English spoken at home were: Jaru 13.9%, Kukatja 12.4%, Kriol 11.7%, Kija 2.5% and Gooniyandi 1.5%. These figures indicate there is high proportion of people who are non-English speaking or have English as a second or third language within the Shire, and this has serious education and employment implications for the region.

Halls Creek

The town of Halls Creek was established as a service town to a Gold Rush in the late 19th century and over time, it developed into a hub providing services to surrounding pastoralists, Aboriginal communities and travellers exploring northern West Australia. It is located on the edge of the Great Sandy and Tanami Deserts, approximately 360 km south of Kununurra and 274 km east of Fitzroy Crossing. For many years, the town represented the starting point of the Canning Stock Route, which was a track established with a series of watering points along which northern pastoralists would drive cattle to the southern beef markets.

The town's population was estimated at 1,211 and approximately 70.4% of the town's residents are indigenous, and 52.9% were female (ABS, 2011), though these figures fluctuate dramatically from season to season, owing to the transience of many Aboriginal community members.

The indigenous population is predominantly Gidja (Kidja) and Djaru, with a number of Tjurabalan people who come from the desert country to the south east of the town. There are more than 40 Aboriginal communities that are serviced by the town of Halls Creek and a large number of smaller outstations, which are often abandoned during the wet season.

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