

**Pilbara Area Consultative Committee  
Transitioning to Regional Development Australia (Pilbara)**

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP announced on March 20 the establishment of Regional Development Australia (RDA) which, on January 1, 2009, replaced Area Consultative Committees (ACCs).

The new RDA network will build on the success of its predecessor, but will take on a broader role to develop strategic input into national programs to improve the coordination of regional development initiatives and ensure that there is effective engagement with local communities.

Pilbara ACC has been in consultation with stakeholders across the Pilbara region on shaping the new network and what it sees as the priorities and direction for the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia the Hon Gary Gray MP has indicated his appreciation for the comprehensive stakeholder consultation process carried out by RDA committees across Australia.

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, requested the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to inquire into and report on the Australian National Audit Office's Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Program and make recommendations on ways to invest funding in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure with the aim of enhancing the sustainability and liveability of Australia's regions.

Key stakeholders have been involved in a consultation process throughout the Pilbara to enable us to provide feedback to Government by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. We have workshopped:

1. The structure of the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program which will commence in July 2009 and take a strategic approach in responding to local priorities and needs. The program will support major investments in regional and local community infrastructure projects.
2. Strategic advice and priorities on the types of community infrastructure that may increase economic investment, improve the job opportunities in regional Australia and enhance liveability of regional centres.

We will provide the community with the outcomes of the workshops in the near future.