

MEDIA RELEASE

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PILBARA CITIES: A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Collaborative partnership between public and private sector was a key theme of ***Pilbara Cities: Challenges and Opportunities*** seminar at the Pan Pacific Hotel on 5 July hosted by the WA Institute of Public Administration.

Funded through Royalties for Regions, over a billion dollars has been poured into the Pilbara Cities project with the aim to create sustainable, vibrant major cities in the Pilbara region.

Presentations from state government, private sector, local government and Indigenous representatives explored the challenges of government and private organisations to implement Pilbara Cities including the cost of living, education, health and a transient population.

Pilbara Cities General Manager, Chris Adams, said the toughest area for this project is economic diversification.

“We need to attract and retain small business which is why we are planning to subsidise rent which is normally \$1500 - \$2000 per week to \$350 a week.”

Pilbara Regional Council Chief Executive Officer, Shelley Pike, argued the need for local government to be included in the delivery of the Pilbara Cities project to meet State government and resource sector timeframes whilst LandCorp Chief Executive Officer, Ross Holt said strong partnerships and a shared vision between government and private sector was an important issue.

“Some Ministers believe that Pilbara Cities is still a pipedream, therefore success for this project is about strong and informed leadership.”

“Normalising the Pilbara is about engaging the private sector, LandCorp’s role is to de-risk the area for financials to keep flowing,” Mr Holt said.

Kate George’s presentation on Indigenous communities evoked responses from the audience during a panel discussion, with a shared view to train and employ

the local, permanent residents, as they “live in the region and stay in the region.”

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Western Australia Institute of Public Administration is an independent, not-for-profit membership body and has been the peak professional body in public administration for over 60 years. The Institute provides topical, informative and innovative thought leadership events and professional development training programs that ensure members are kept ahead of the debate on significant changes and initiatives influencing the public sector both locally and internationally.

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