

# MEDIA RELEASE



Kimberley Regional Group

14 September 2021

## **KIMBERLEY LEADERS WELCOME REGIONAL INVESTMENT**

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) warmly welcomed funding in the State Budget to address key issues in the Kimberley region.

'A key priority is community safety,' said Cr Chris Mitchell, Chair of the Kimberley Regional Group which represents the four regional Shires.

The much talked about Kimberley Youth Justice Strategy is gaining momentum with the State Budget recognising contributions from a range of departments in 2021/2022 including:

- WA Police: \$253,000
- Dept Justice: \$2.355m
- Dept Communities: \$204,000
- Dept LGSC: \$208,000
- Mental Health Commission: \$204,000

The Department of Justice identified community-led initiatives such as night patrols and place-based programs as funding targets under the strategy.

"It is especially pleasing that funding has been providing to undertake consultation to co-design an on-country residential facility as well as a safe place facility targeted at young people who are living in Broome and are at-risk or involved in the justice system," said Cr Mitchell

Other social projects that the Kimberley Regional Group has successfully championed include addressing domestic violence with the Kimberley Family Violence Service receiving \$1.326m in 2021/22.

The Better Beginnings Program also benefited in the budget, along with the ground breaking Olabud Doogethu Justice Reinvestment Program in Halls Creek which received a further \$418,000.

"Social infrastructure is the fabric of our community, and the funding is welcomed. We are also pleased that our hard infrastructure priorities benefited after long term lobbying by the KRG," said Cr Mitchell.

Priority projects such as the Halls Creek Town Development Masterplan has been funded along with the Kununurra Leisure Centre Redevelopment (\$6m) and road safety improvements in Kununurra and Wyndham for \$520,000.

Funding to support access to regional childcare will increase over the forward estimates along with planning for upgrades to the Derby and Halls Creek Senior High Schools and additional investment in STEM upgrades for schools throughout the Kimberley.

“This investment in our schools is consistent with the KRG’s goal of improving regional education outcomes,” said Cr Mitchell.

Sporting clubs will also benefit with upgrades to ovals, lighting and changerooms across regional centres.

The state government has also confirmed the \$36.3m Broome Boating Facility election commitment but the balance for this \$77.7M project still needs to be sourced.

“We are pleased to confirm the State has committed these funds and are actively partnering with the Shire of Broome to seek and secure the shortfall required to deliver the Broome Boating Facility,” said Cr Mitchell.

END

About the Kimberley Regional Group

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) represents the four Shires in the region being:

- Shire of Broome
- Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Shire of Halls Creek
- Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

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