



Australian Government



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

JOINT ASSESSMENT FOR THE EAST KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

SUMMARY REPORT

2009

The East Kimberley Development Package was launched by the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP and the Western Australian Premier, the Hon Colin Barnett MLA on 3 July 2009.

The Commonwealth investments outlined below are the result of a joint Australian and Western Australian Government assessment of the most effective infrastructure projects to meet the social and economic development needs of the East Kimberley region. This assessment was undertaken between December 2008 and March 2009.

Foreword

**The Hon Gary Gray AO MP,
Parliamentary Secretary for Western and Northern Australia**

As the Commonwealth lead in the joint assessment, I have been mindful that the infrastructure investments made by the Commonwealth must bring widespread and long-lasting social and economic benefits to the local community and its families.

The investments outlined in this Package will alleviate the shortfall in infrastructure and services in health, aged care, early childhood development, education and training, social and transition housing, transport, and sporting and community facilities. More importantly, they will promote healthy, strong and resilient communities and provide meaningful and sustainable jobs for local Indigenous people.

The investments were developed in close collaboration with the Western Australian Government and relevant Commonwealth agencies. The projects included in the Package also reflect the ideas I heard in many discussions with local East Kimberley residents and organisations. Close co-operation with the WA Government has also ensured that the Commonwealth's investments align with the State's investments in expanding the Ord River Irrigation Area.

**The Hon Brendon Grylls MLA,
Minister for Regional Development**

The projects identified in this report signify an historic Commonwealth commitment to the people of the East Kimberley region. It ensures Kununurra, Wyndham and other small communities in the region can take full advantage of the exciting expansion of the Ord River Irrigation Area that will see \$220.0 million invested through the Western Australian Government's Royalties for Regions program over the next four years.

The social and community projects outlined in this document demonstrate the determination of the State and Federal Governments to address Indigenous disadvantage in the East Kimberley by improving education, health, housing and community services.

I am enthusiastic about the joint commitment because it will not only bring significant social benefits for all people of the East Kimberley, but it also provides a chance for traditional owners to be woven into the region's economic future.

1. BACKGROUND ON JOINT ASSESSMENT

On 12 December 2008, the Prime Minister announced the Commonwealth Government's \$4.7 billion Nation Building-Economic Stimulus Package. The investment included \$195.0 million over 2008-09 and 2009-10 for social and common-use infrastructure to support economic development in the East Kimberley region.

The Commonwealth's investment in the East Kimberley region was conditional on a joint Commonwealth and Western Australian Government assessment of the most effective infrastructure projects to meet the social and economic development needs of the region. The joint assessment was guided by terms of reference agreed by the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments on 24 December 2008.

The Commonwealth Government's participation in the joint assessment was led by the Hon Gary Gray AO MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Western and Northern Australia, supported by the Office of Northern Australia. The Western Australian Government's participation was led by the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Regional Development, supported by the Department of State Development.

The East Kimberley Development Package (the Package) was developed collaboratively with the Western Australian Government and is based on four guiding principles.

First, Commonwealth investments under the Package will be used to fund social and open access, common-use, infrastructure that targets economic and social disadvantage and brings long-term, sustainable benefits to the whole of the East Kimberley region.

Second, the Western Australian Government will invest an equivalent amount in infrastructure works directly related to the development of additional irrigated land associated with the Ord Expansion, including the augmentation of existing irrigation channels, the construction of new irrigation and drainage channels, road access and services.

Third, where possible, the Commonwealth's new investments will be delivered to the East Kimberley region through existing agreements and frameworks to minimise delay and cost, as well as to acknowledge and build on the consultations and engagements already undertaken between Governments, stakeholder groups and the community.

And finally, the Package takes into account the shared commitment by the Australian and Western Australian Governments to national water reform, and the National Water Initiative to increase the efficiency and sustainability of Australia's water use.

East Kimberley Development Package

The Commonwealth decision to invest in the East Kimberley Development Package followed the Western Australian Government's decision to proceed with investment in the expansion of the Ord River irrigation scheme around the town of Kununurra.

Western Australia has committed \$220.0 million to the Ord Irrigation Expansion Project, which is focused on developing and delivering agricultural land, in conjunction with supporting infrastructure, including off farm irrigation and drainage, roads and other services. The project will increase the amount of irrigated land in the East Kimberley region from 14,000 to approximately 22,000 hectares.

The Package will assist in addressing social and economic disadvantage within the Indigenous population and the current deficiencies in the available social, community and common-use infrastructure. The investment will also alleviate the critical shortfall in infrastructure relating to health, aged care, housing, employment, education and training, family and child services.

The Package has also been designed to align with a range of current Australian Government policy goals and frameworks.

- 'Closing the Gap' initiative – which seeks to resolve the disparity between the social and economic welfare levels of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnerships in the key reform areas of: Indigenous Health; Housing; Early Childhood Development; and Economic Participation, as well as the National Partnership on Remote Service Delivery.
- The Government's \$4.7 billion and \$42.0 billion 'Nation Building' plans to support jobs, families and businesses during the current global economic downturn. The plans were announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, in December 2008 and February 2009.
- The development and implementation of COAG's National Social Inclusion agenda.
- The Government's commitment to the protection and conservation of Australia's unique environmental assets, particularly the fragile landscapes of the Kimberley region.
- The Government's shared commitment with the Western Australian Government to national water reform, including the National Water Initiative (NWI).

The Commonwealth's investment proposals target priority community needs in the areas of health, education, housing and accommodation, transport and community infrastructure.

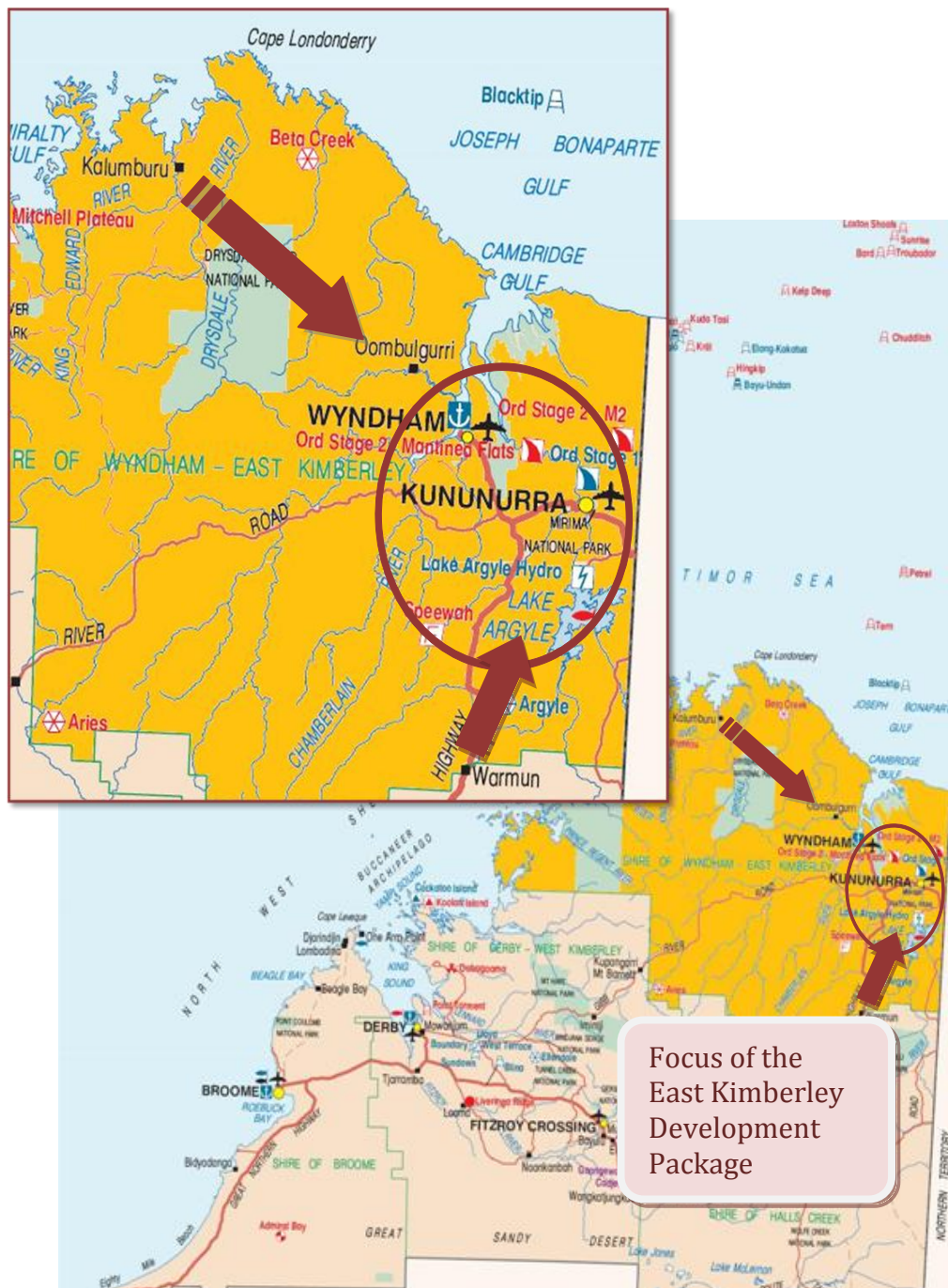
A summary of the East Kimberley Development Package is at **Annex A**.

2. EAST KIMBERLEY REGION

For the purposes of the joint assessment and Commonwealth investments, the East Kimberley region was defined as the region centred on the towns of Kununurra and Wyndham, adjacent to the Ord River Irrigation Area (**Map 1** refers).

Some East Kimberley communities, such as Kalumburu, Oombulgurri and Warmun have strong cultural and economic ties to Kununurra and Wyndham. Where appropriate, investments in these communities were also considered in the joint assessment process.

Map 1: The East Kimberley region



3. HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The East Kimberley Health Infrastructure Investment Package will deliver a total investment of \$50.0 million in improved health outcomes in the East Kimberley region. Health needs in the East Kimberley region are complex and interrelated with social wellbeing, employment, housing, education and training, welfare status and the availability and quality of community services.

Chronic and preventable diseases are the areas requiring the greatest action. Health providers in the region have identified renal dialysis as their highest priority, with patients forced to leave their communities long-term for treatment in Broome or Perth. The *Health and Hospitals Fund Kimberley Renal Services Project*, announced as part of the 2009-10 Federal Budget, includes capital funding to establish a four station renal dialysis unit in Kununurra (\$3.4 million).

Alcohol and substance abuse is also a major health and social issue in the region. Other investment priorities include primary and preventative health care, drug and alcohol services, short-term patient accommodation, housing for health service providers, improvements to remote clinics, aged care facilities and environmental health measures.

The Health Infrastructure Investment Package includes three primary health care projects for services in Kalumburu, Warmun and Oombulgurri. Improving primary and preventative health care services in these areas will reduce the incidence of chronic and acute illness in the community as well as reduce the pressure on acute health services in Kununurra and Wyndham.

Redevelopment of Wyndham Health Facilities - \$3.4 million

The redevelopment of health facilities associated with the existing Wyndham hospital campus will enhance access to primary health care, residential aged care and new staff accommodation. The new facilities will be complemented by the construction of new staff accommodation to assist in the attraction and retention of qualified health professionals to ensure this program of work can be undertaken.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Kununurra Hospital Expansion - \$20.0 million

Construction of a comprehensive and integrated primary health care centre for the Kununurra area and surrounding communities. This project includes increasing the building footprint of Kununurra Hospital by approximately 2000m² to expand primary health and general practice services, including child and maternal health, chronic disease prevention and management, health promotion and community mental health, and clinical education and training facilities.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Short Stay Patient Accommodation - \$4.0 million

Construction of short stay accommodation for up to 16 patients in Kununurra. The type of patients expected to be accommodated include those who are receiving renal, oncology, cardiology, obstetric, gynaecology and paediatric services. The project will provide patients with a safe and welcoming place to stay when coming to Kununurra for medical treatment.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Residential Rehabilitation Facility - \$3.2 million

Expansion of the residential rehabilitation service facility in Wyndham, operated by Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation. The facility upgrade will allow the service to begin treating families as a whole. This project will also construct a Detoxification Centre, Training Preparation Unit, a crèche and recreational facilities, on-site staff accommodation and paving for roads and pathways.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Remote Aged Care Services - \$5.0 million

Refurbishment or replacement of aged care service facilities in remote locations. Kalumburu requires extensive work to rebuild a Home and Community Care Centre and Warmun's aged care units require refurbishment.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Remote Clinics - \$2.0 million

Refurbishment or replacement of the remote clinic in Warmun and construction of staff accommodation at the remote clinic in Kalumburu. The availability of fit-for-purpose clinics in remote locations is necessary to achieve National and State priorities for Indigenous health, which focus on closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. Staff housing is crucial for the smooth operation of remote clinics.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Environmental Health Measures - \$6.8 million

Improvements to dust control measures (road sealing), incinerators, and fencing sewerage ponds and rubbish tips in the communities of Warmun, Kalumburu, Oombulgurri, and smaller communities and outstations surrounding Kununurra. In developing this initiative, consideration will be given to developing a local service provider model similar to that being used in the West Kimberley.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Sobering Up Centres - \$0.6 million

Refurbishment of Sobering Up Centres (SUCs) in Kununurra and Wyndham. The majority of SUC clients are Aboriginal and the SUCs operate to reduce Aboriginal deaths. The alcohol bans and restrictions across the Kimberley will ensure a continuing demand and focus on the provision of these support services.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Health Service Provider Housing - \$5.0 million

Construction of houses in Kununurra for Western Australian Country Health Service employees and employees of government-funded health service providers to assist with the ongoing delivery of new health services provided through the Package. A mixture of housing will be constructed including free-standing houses, townhouses and apartments.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Education and Training Infrastructure Investment Package will deliver a total investment of \$64.0 million in infrastructure that will contribute to improving the early education, schooling and training outcomes in the East Kimberley region. The Package focuses on the following key areas:

- Early Childhood Development and Education;
- Primary and Secondary Schooling;
- Post-Compulsory Further Education; and
- Community Training and Meeting Facilities.

Economic growth, employment opportunities and better education outcomes in the East Kimberley depend on the provision of quality early learning services, schooling and vocational training services and infrastructure. Concerted action in the areas of education and training will also improve the socioeconomic, employment status and workforce participation of Indigenous people.

Education outcomes in East Kimberley region schools, particularly for Indigenous students, are poor. A major impediment to better education and training outcomes is the low level of engagement and attendance at school. Consultations with stakeholders have highlighted the need to improve the provision of early education, primary and secondary schooling and training services infrastructure.

The creation of distinctive early years, primary and secondary schooling services is part of a 0 – 17 years approach. Specific investments identified as priorities include access to and improved quality of early learning facilities in Kununurra, Wyndham and Warmun; the development of the primary and secondary schools on the Kununurra District High School campus; expansion of the school and community

library facilities; teacher training facilities; improved trade training and TAFE facilities; and the construction of community meeting rooms in remote locations.

The expansion of the Ord Irrigation Scheme is also expected to increase the population in the East Kimberley region, directly impacting on the effectiveness and capability of early learning services, schools and TAFE.

Wyndham Early Learning Activities Centre - \$1.6 million

Redevelopment of the Wyndham Early Learning Activities (WELA) centre. The current Wyndham Early Learning Centre is inadequate and a centre will be established to promote best learning outcomes for young children and their families in the community.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Warmun Early Learning Centre - \$0.6 million

Construction of a new transportable building for use by the Warmun Early Learning Centre, to replace an existing old building in need of repair. This is the only child care service in the community. Warmun has strong economic and cultural links to the Kununurra community.

Project Leader: Australian Government, through a funding agreement with the service provider

Kununurra Primary School - \$25.0 million

Construction of a dedicated and distinctive primary school service on the Kununurra District High school site. The new Primary School will remain on the same site but will provide a distinctive service for primary age children as part of the 0 – 17 years concept.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Kununurra District High School Upgrade - \$15.0 million

The upgrade and refurbishment of Secondary School facilities at the Kununurra High School. The expansion and refurbishment of the Secondary School will also support the development of Trade Training and TAFE recognised courses at the High School. Education outcomes will be improved by upgrading and fully integrating early learning, primary and secondary facilities.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Kununurra School Community Library Expansion - \$5.0 million

The expansion and/or relocation of the existing shared community library located on the Kununurra High School precinct, to accommodate the increased school and community population. A well equipped community library and meeting place will provide both a schooling and community wide resource to engage with student, family and parental literacy. The Library will also provide access to Internet-based information and skills.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

East Kimberley Teacher Training Facility - \$3.5 million

Development of a teacher training facility to be integrated within the Kununurra High School precinct. The facility will provide specialised culturally appropriate training to student teachers and services for new and existing Kimberley teachers. The facility will also provide training tools to support the development of teacher training.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Kimberley TAFE Upgrade - \$10.0 million

Construction of new facilities at both the Kununurra and Wyndham TAFE campuses, including specific trade training and general purpose classrooms. Prior to finalising the design of new facilities, an analysis of current and anticipated labour market needs will be undertaken to ensure the proposed training facilities will meet the needs of local employees and provide for an effective transition from training into employment. The development is part of the long term master plan for the Kununurra TAFE Campus to accommodate community and industry growth.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Community Meeting Rooms - \$2.3 million

Construction of culturally appropriate community meeting rooms in Kununurra and the communities of Kalumburu, Oombulgurri and Dawul. This project will provide a safe and inviting environment and allow locals to maintain/reconnect with learning. The development of meeting places will greatly increase the likelihood of communities being able to develop activities to provide adult learning in areas such as health, cooking and information technology.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Early Childhood Building for Jungdranung Community - \$1.0 million

Development of a purpose built early childhood education facility along with a community meeting room in the remote Jungdranung community. The current facilities are not satisfactory and do not meet the community's needs. Improving and increasing access to community activities is also a necessary step to securing satisfactory community building, economic, employment and educational outcomes.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

5. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Housing Infrastructure Investment Package will deliver a total investment of \$50.0 million for improved housing outcomes in the East Kimberley region. Serious housing shortages in Kununurra have created major home affordability hurdles for the town's residents with extreme rental prices beyond the means of many people, particularly members of the Indigenous community.

Overcrowding, homelessness, poor housing conditions and severe housing shortages are significant factors affecting Indigenous communities in the region. In addition, there are large waiting lists for public housing and the difficulty in finding housing in Kununurra or other centres has created disincentives for people to take up and retain employment opportunities.

Improved housing outcomes for Indigenous people will provide the foundation for lasting improvements in living standards, social and economic well being and access to life opportunities, such as employment and education. Transition accommodation is also needed to support Indigenous people's transition to full employment by creating a clear, affordable and viable pathway to move from welfare to a working future.

The Australian Government, through various National Partnership agreements on Housing, is already making a significant investment in the East Kimberley region by providing more social and Indigenous housing. The Commonwealth's investment in social and transition housing under this Package will complement these initiatives.

The provision of quality staff housing is identified by all levels of Government and the non-government sector as critical in the attraction and retention of staff, and the effective delivery of services to people in regional and remote areas. Staff housing investments in the region will be delivered through separate initiatives by both the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments.

Social Housing - \$30.0 million

Construction of additional social housing in Kununurra and Wyndham for people meeting income test requirements on the same basis as existing social housing. This project will increase the stock of public housing in Kununurra and Wyndham and assist in reducing housing stress on Indigenous residents of the towns. This will improve Indigenous health and education outcomes, and reduce Indigenous disadvantage.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Transition Housing - \$20.0 million

Construction of housing for Indigenous people to provide assistance and reduce disincentives as they enter the workforce. The project will involve a mix of housing types and will provide transitional accommodation for people entering employment, as an alternative to social housing. The Australian and Western Australian Governments will work together to develop flexible arrangements to optimise Indigenous employment and Indigenous business outcomes from the project.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

6. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Transport Infrastructure Investment Package will deliver a total investment of \$15.0 million to promote the long-term economic prosperity of the region, which is heavily reliant on the quality of its transport infrastructure base. In consultations, stakeholders stressed that effective transport infrastructure is critical to the commercial viability of many industries, not least of all agricultural production, as well as being critical to the social wellbeing and liveability of the region.

The East Kimberley region is one of the most remote areas of Western Australia with the largest town, Kununurra, located 800 kilometres south west of Darwin and 1,000 kilometres east of Broome. With a small, widely dispersed population, effective transport infrastructure is critical to the economic development of the region. High transport costs already impact on the commercial viability of a range of industries. The expansion of the Ord River Irrigation Area is expected to increase the demands being placed on existing transport infrastructure.

The Commonwealth has previously provided funding for preliminary scoping work on the Kununurra Heavy Vehicle Route, also called the Kununurra Bypass. Planning and design work and land acquisition for the western leg of the bypass will continue through to December 2009. While a Kununurra bypass is beyond the scope of this Package in terms of cost and expected timing of delivery, future funding could be sought through the Nation Building program.

Wyndham Port Facility Upgrade - \$10.0 million

Upgrade of the Wyndham Port to improve the efficiency and capacity of the existing Port through the construction of better storage facilities, improved access and upgrades to maintenance buildings, and repairs to the existing jetty structure. The port is a critical transport hub for the East Kimberley region, and a primary point of access for a range of commodities including fuel oil, fertilizer and ammonium nitrate.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government

Kununurra Airport Upgrade - \$5.4 million

Refurbishment of the airport terminal to meet security and service requirements associated with growing passenger numbers; and the construction of a separate patient transfer facility on land donated by the Shire Council and operated by St John Ambulance. The Shire Council will contribute \$1.0 million to the initial infrastructure upgrades and will be responsible for operating expenses.

Project Leader: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

7. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Community Infrastructure Investment Package will deliver a total investment of \$16.0 million to help develop and maintain a healthy, active and strong society. Community infrastructure plays a vital role in enabling people to participate in society and address feelings of isolation within the East Kimberley community.

Quality community infrastructure is critical to improving social inclusion, liveability and economic growth. The local Indigenous people of the East Kimberley region are already disproportionately disadvantaged and have poor levels of health, social and economic wellbeing. By investing in community infrastructure and services, we are addressing social disadvantage and helping to strengthen communities by strengthening family and community networks, and build a 'sense of place' within the community.

The East Kimberley region also supports a vibrant and dynamic Indigenous arts sector that plays a vital role in the social and cultural life of the community and attracts national and international interest to the region.

Community Sporting Facilities - \$4.2 million

Upgrade of the sporting oval in Kununurra adjacent to the new 42 bed Indigenous hostel; and the upgrade of the Wyndham Swimming Pool by updating the ageing filtration system and pipe work. Given the harsh environment in the north, community facilities such as sporting facilities and the pool are vital to community well being and engagement.

Project Leader: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Waringarri Art Centre - \$1.6 million

Expansion to the existing Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Centre in Kununurra. The project will include upgrades to the studio, workshop, office, gallery, storage space and building security. Staff accommodation is also required to ensure appropriate recruitment and retention of staff, as well as facilities to support activity in outlying communities with which Waringarri works, such as Kalumburu.

Project Leader: Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Corporation

Wyndham Picture Gardens - \$0.3 million

Upgrade to the seating and projection system at the historic Wyndham Picture Gardens to allow the outdoor facility to become fully operational again. Save the Children (Australia) have provided 12 months funding to cover the costs of obtaining films as part of their support for youth and children in Wyndham.

Project Leader: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Wyndham Community Jetty - \$5.0 million

Construction of a community jetty adjacent to the existing Wyndham Port facilities at Anton's Landing to facilitate safe access to deep water for recreational fishing, particularly for local Indigenous people. Consultation with the Wyndham community and the Western Australian Government will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate design to meet community needs, within the available budget.

Project Leader: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

MG Corp-Gelganyem Trust Shared Facilities - \$4.5 million

The design and construction of shared office facilities for up to 30 staff for the Gelganyem Trust and Miriuwung Gajerrong (MG) Corporation in Kununurra. The facility will be built on land provided at no cost by the MG Corporation and would be shared by the Gelganyem Trust and MG Corporation. Both Indigenous organisations are charitable organisations established to represent the Miriuwung, Gajerrong and Gidja people of the East Kimberley region.

Project Leader: Western Australian Government, in partnership with MG Corporation and Gelganyem Trust

ANNEX A

East Kimberley Development Package Summary

Project		\$ million
<u>Health</u>	\$50.0 million	
Wyndham health facilities refurbishment		3.4
Kununurra Hospital expansion		20.0
Short stay patient accommodation in Kununurra		4.0
Residential rehabilitation facility in Wyndham		3.2
Remote aged care services in Kalumburu and Warmun		5.0
Remote clinics in Kalumburu and Warmun		2.0
Environmental health measures in Kalumburu, Warmun and Oombulgurri		6.8
Sobering Up Centres in Kununurra and Wyndham		0.6
Health service providers housing in Kununurra		5.0
<u>Education and Training</u>	\$64.0 million	
Wyndham Early Learning Activities Centre		1.6
Warmun Early Learning Centre		0.6
Kununurra Primary School		25.0
Kununurra District High School upgrade		15.0
Kununurra School Community Library expansion		5.0
East Kimberley Teacher Training Facility within Kununurra High School		3.5
Kimberley TAFE upgrade in Kununurra and Wyndham		10.0
Community meeting rooms in Kununurra, Kalumburu, Oombulgurri and Dawul		2.3
Early Childhood Building for Jungdranung Community		1.0
<u>Housing</u>	\$50.0 million	
Social Housing in Kununurra and Wyndham		30.0
Transition Housing in Kununurra and other locations		20.0
<u>Transport</u>	\$15.0 million	
Wyndham Port facility upgrade		10.0
Kununurra Airport upgrade		5.4
<u>Community</u>	\$16.0 million	
Community sporting facilities in Kununurra and Wyndham		4.2
Waringarri Art Centre in Kununurra		1.6
Wyndham Picture Gardens		0.3
Wyndham Community Jetty		5.0
MG Corporation – Gelganyem Trust shared facility in Kununurra		4.5
Total		195.0