

# #regionalvoice



## February 2023

A short month, but a very busy and productive one. *#regionalvoice* is intended to be a brief snapshot of what we have been up to over the past month in supporting and representing our members.

### *Representation and Advocacy*

- Supported and actively encouraged our members to ask their member to be a part of CCIWA's Payroll Tax Campaign. RCCIWA has long advocated for raising the threshold of payroll tax and changing the way it is applied. PRT has not kept up with inflation and is a genuine inhibitor to business growth for so many regional businesses. Please sign up to CCIWA's campaign to help our collective voice.
- Contributed to Federal Treasury's business round table consultation on the [white paper](#) that is being developed as a result of the National Jobs and Skills Summit. We contributed strongly with a clear message that regional WA is unique and that a bespoke model must be considered when looking at delivering training and workforce development programs and initiatives for businesses in Regional WA, and to ensure they are locally led. It has been our experience that WA does needs programs to be designed differently.

### *Key Issues for Regional Businesses*

- The issues below are the ones that are of strongest concern all regional business communities in WA right now. In all meetings, conversations and at any opportunity, we explain in detail what the impact is and offer suggested solutions as well advocate for support, to try and ease the pressure.
  - Critical labour shortage – just not enough people in regional WA
  - Critical lack of housing and accommodation – this seems to be number 1 at the moment
  - Lack of Childcare
  - Ongoing impacts of COVID – long term business fatigue
  - Rising costs of doing business

### *Stakeholder Engagement – Building important relationships – Meetings held this month*

- Met with Community Skills WA to discuss training needs in regional WA <https://cswa.org.au/>
- Stephen Grocott, Local Buying and Procurement Specialist with the Dept of Jobs, Tourism, Innovation and Science
- Mem Beard MLA, Member for North West Central
- Aaron Morey, Chief Economist with CCIWA
- Rio Tinto, Chevron and Woodside regarding their collective support of regional business communities
- Tourism WA – Cruise Ready information for the relevant regional business communities

### *One on One member Support*

We are a member driven organisation and our focus and priority is 100% members first, so we interact with and happily help our members all day every day. For this update we are not going to list every contact however below is a few examples of how we engaged with and supported our members over and above our regular support and information, during February.

- Travelled to Carnarvon to attend the Carnarvon CCI's Business After Hours that was hosted by Rio Tinto and then spent some time with the CCCIO committee and Program Manager. RCCIWA has offered support, introductions and guidance to CCCI in the development of their own business support program, Grow Local Carnarvon. This is a very exciting time for the CCCI.
- Supported and contributed to the Ashburton Chambers project, which involved the Onslow CCI and the Pilbara Inland CCI working in collaboration. This project is funded by Rio Tinto and was organised by Chantelle at the Onslow CCI.

- Assisted one of our members in getting them set up and trained on mail chimp. They can now send their communications much easier and track what their members are accessing, to ensure their communications are relevant and valuable.
- Wrote three further letters of support for three different members, for funding applications they are submitting to provide support services for their business community.
- Provided Program support to eight of our members who are delivering funded services that we Project Manage.