

#regionalvoice



March 2023

#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

- Focused on the planning for our June 2023 RCCIWA Members Forum being held on June 22nd and 23rd 2023. Members of Parliament, Ministers and key stakeholders have been invited to come along and meet with our members to discuss issues of concern or of priority, and ways we can work together.
- Contributed as a member of the Economic Regulation Authority's Consumer Consultative Committee. We ensure the issues and input from regional businesses are raised in this forum. The role of the ERACCC is to:
 - provide comment to the Authority on issues affecting consumers that fall within the scope of the Authority's administration of the Economic Regulation Act 2003 (the Act);
 - provide tangible outcomes for consumers through work that members undertake in partnership with other members and the Authority.You can find our more here <https://www.erawa.com.au/about-us/consumer-consultative-committee>
- Attended the Small Business Collective breakfast meeting - we are connecting industry bodies that represent small businesses to hopefully work in collaboration as needed, trying to get a larger voice for small businesses. This is in its early stages and is a work in progress.
- Attended the Skilled Migration Job Connect Working group meeting as a member
- Attended the Foodservice and Hospitality Working Group monthly meeting as a member

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 lack of housing and accommodation and the rising cost of rentals
 - Critical labour shortage – just not enough people in regional WA
 - Lack of Childcare – places, centres, not enough qualified childcare workers to meet requirements to have more people training.
 - Long term business fatigue – particularly with small to medium business owners and operators – they are exhausted
 - Rising costs of doing business

Stakeholder Engagement – Building important relationships – Meetings held this month

- Attended the launch of the Bankwest Curtin Economic Centres Tourism Report Launch - Go Your Own WA – recovery and regeneration for WA's Tourism Industry. An excellent report. <https://bcec.edu.au/publications/go-your-own-wa-recovery-and-regeneration-for-the-tourism-industry-in-western-australia/>
- Met with the Dept of Training and Workforce Development for our quarterly meeting about the program we deliver via six of our members, Working Together. <https://regionalchamberswa.com.au/page/programs>
- Invited by DTWD to present at the Jobs and Skills Centres forum on the role of their local Chambers and the importance of working in collaboration
- Invited by DPIRD to present at the Local Content Advisers Network Forum on the role of their local Chambers and the importance of working in collaboration
- Met with Phil Kemp from Business Foundations

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 Broome, spending three days with our members the Broome CCI. Attended and MC'd their brilliant Women's Leadership Forum, spent time with the team and their committee and attended their AGM. The BCCI have had a fantastic 12 months and it was exciting to hear about their plans for the 12 months ahead. <https://broomechamber.com.au/events/2023-womens-leadership-forum/>
- Worked closely with two of our members who are relaunching after a period of hiatus
- Worked closely with 4 of our members on developing templates, policies and procedures
- Provided a letter of support to one of our members for a major funding application