

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1739**  
**Asked on 11 November 2009**

**MS NELSON-CARR** asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland (MR MULHERIN)–

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister outline how regional centres, particularly Townsville, will benefit from the appointment of the new Regional Development Australia committees?

**ANSWER:**

Regional Development Australia Queensland (RDA) is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments. RDA provides a unique opportunity for Queensland to work with the Commonwealth, local governments and the community to improve Queensland's regions.

Twelve (12) RDA committees have been established across the State and will become the principal regional engagement mechanism of the Queensland Government. One of these RDA committees is the Townsville and North West RDA committee which will be based in Townsville and include a presence in Mount Isa.

As leading members of their local communities, Townsville and North West RDA committee members will be well placed to provide advice on the economic development needs for regional centres, such as Townsville. As local people, they will be committed to providing relevant regional advice and developing local solutions.

Collectively, they will have experience across business, industry, community and local government.

The Townsville and North West RDA committee will provide an additional source of information for Government about exactly what is happening at the grass roots level in the Townsville area. Its role will also include influencing Government and other stakeholders in advancing economic development priorities to assist in retaining jobs and growing local economies.

For example, based upon advice from the RDA committee, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation may focus on priority industry sectors or target specific investment attraction opportunities that would benefit the region. If particular regional challenges or opportunities are identified by the RDA committee that require a whole of government response, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation may work together with the Commonwealth and local government to progress the issue.

Together with the Commonwealth's Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development, Maxine McKew MP, I announced appointments to Regional Development Australia Queensland committees on Thursday, 29 October 2009.

Each committee includes local government representatives, ensuring all three levels of government are working together to advance the economic development of regional Queensland. For instance, the Townsville and North West RDA committee includes Cr Lynette McLaughlin, Mayor of Burdekin Shire, as Deputy Chair, and as committee members – Cr Eric Britton, Mayor of Boulia Shire and Cr Greg Jones, Deputy Mayor of the Flinders Shire.

Other committee members appointed to the Townsville and North West RDA committee include:

- Mr Ronald McCullough AM (Chair)
- Dr Farvardin Daliri OAM
- Ms Thelma Gertz
- Mr David Glasson
- Mr Trevor Goldstone
- Mr Jeff Jimmieson, and
- Professor Robin Woellner.

Other RDA committees are located in Far North Queensland and Torres Strait; Mackay/Whitsunday; Fitzroy and Central West; Wide Bay Burnett; Darling Downs and South West; Sunshine Coast; Moreton Bay; Brisbane City; Logan and Redlands; Ipswich and West Moreton; and the Gold Coast.