



Australian Government
National Recovery and Resilience Agency



North West Implementation Working Group

Meeting 3, Thursday 17 June

Cloncurry, QLD



Third Meeting of the North West Implementation Working Group.

On Thursday 17 June 2021 the North West Implementation Working Group (IWG) met in Cloncurry to discuss challenges small businesses in the region face, as well as the region's mental health concerns. The group addressed these challenges and concerns, discussing a holistic and best way forward in implementing solutions in line with the strategic priorities identified in the Strategy.

Outcomes of the Discussion

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (the Agency) provided a brief update on its broadened role as well its new initiatives including the \$600 million Preparing Australia Program and the \$40 million North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program (recovery.gov.au/about).

Updates on the five grant programs announced in the 2020-21 budget, and the new second stream opportunity under the Resilience and Recovery \$20 million program was provided (recovery.gov.au/locally-led-recovery).

The successful outcomes of the Grant Writing Workshops held earlier in the year were discussed. The Agency announced the online grant writing and social media marketing tutorials that will soon be available.

The Small Business Recovery Centre and Meat & Livestock Australia gave an overview of the support available to small businesses, the challenges and successes with delivery and outreach, and future opportunities. A general lack of business fundamental skills was noted as a key challenge for the region. Many businesses do not have adequate HR, inventory/information management, or marketing skills. Additionally, the region has a relatively high turnover of business making it a reoccurring and ongoing issue for service providers.

While [Commerce North West](#) covers the region there are no established business networks at the LGA level.

The group also discussed the ongoing tension created by small business support failing to gain traction within the small business community. Poor time management was cited as a key barrier for engagement and suggested that this could be an effective area of support (for example [House Paddock Training](#)). The group also noted that the mental health strains of running a business need to be better addressed. The Small Business Recovery Centre have been working to address some of these issues.

The meeting held a group discussion on the big issues and opportunities in mental health within the region. Partnerships are key, and mental health outreach works better when it is subtle and integrated with existing community events. The group highlighted that the stigma around mental health is still prominent, making standalone mental health events or programs less likely to be successful.

The group raised an example of a recent highly successful event, the RFCS/DAF/AgForce producer roadshow where mental health topics were slipped into the broader program. The Royal Flying Doctors Service talked about the 'pit-stop' program they run at community events that use the opportunity to win a high quality Esky to entice people to participate in the program. Those who would otherwise be put-off by the stigma of mental health support could easily justify to friends and family that they were only interested in the Esky. QRA and Mayor Campbell talked about the need to include mental health providers and or the PHNs on local disaster management groups and

incorporate mental health into their formal disaster management and recovery planning. The group discussed the success of previous Flood Summits and flagged a potential for another summit at the end of the year that focusses on mental health.

Site Visits

Cloncurry Shire Council hosted the IWG on a tour of some of Cloncurry's key initiatives including the Drone facility, racecourse irrigation trial, rodeo complex and Australian Survivor film location.

The Australian Survivor program was filmed and produced at various locations around Cloncurry over a six-month period by production company, Endemol Shine Australia (ESA).

ESA supported the local community through investment in local jobs, accommodation, grocery supplies and film set fabrication. As at 2 June 2021, the corporate spend on businesses with a Cloncurry ABN was \$1.9M with the forecast total spend at \$3.8M. ESA employed 190 from outside the area and 130 locals; identifying a number of talented locals who will stay on to help film the next season. ESA booked out 13,000 hotel room nights. ESA estimate that individual crewmembers spent \$200 per week totalling approximately \$500K for the shooting period.

ESA also gave local school kids tours of the sets. The shoot has ignited enthusiasm within council and the community to do more to encourage and invest in film media arts. The Council is also keen to capitalise on the potential tourism opportunities Survivor will bring.

Photo Ops







