

# Council Corner

Your July 2014 update from Mayor Peter Long



## ***Welcome to the City of Karratha!***

On the first of July 2014, Karratha became Australia's newest City – though by no means it's smallest! People may be surprised to know that Karratha has a larger population than Broken Hill, Horsham, Whyalla, Ararat, Swan Hill and a dozen other cities across the country.

**K**arratha is of critical economic importance to our nation. A figure I like to bandy about is the fact that in 2017, when the Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG projects come on stream, the Pilbara as a whole will generate 40% of Australia's export income. Exports are the primary way of increasing wealth – witness China over the last 20 years – so our region is vital to the well-being of Australia. People outside this State are finally starting to realise this.

While many fly-in/fly-out workers have been leaving town as the construction

of the many huge projects in our area is completed (we have 13,000 FIFO beds!), the permanent population is increasing. School enrolment numbers in 2014 jumped by 8% from last year.

However, it is never easy coming off a boom as those who have run businesses in this city for the long term well appreciate. It is this boom-bust economy that government is now trying to even out to make this a stable and sustainable city. There is now a good supply of land available so in the next construction boom, there will not be the same upward pressure on house prices and rents.

But we in the Pilbara are now entering a new boom – a boom in production. This is set to benefit our country for decades to come and is generating a new type of work for the region.

The massive infrastructure that has been constructed in the Pilbara over the last 10 years needs to be maintained and up to 10% per annum of the invested

capital must be expended to achieve this. Just multiply the hundreds of billions invested in the last decade by 10% and you will gain some appreciation of the work opportunities that are available. Smarter companies have already realised this and are gearing up to tap into this new bonanza. Look at the number of huge sheds constructed in the Gap Ridge LIA and you will see how many publically listed companies have decided to set up shop here in Karratha to service this infrastructure. Servicing the mines, ports and offshore facilities is a big new industry for our city.

In addition to this, world-class companies are now realising our area's potential and proposals for renewable energy and bio-resource developments are being prepared.

We are fortunate indeed to live in this magnificent good country, with so much natural beauty and so many continuing work opportunities. Welcome to the City of Karratha!



## Budget heralds a new era

A focus on delivering the standard range of services found in major regional cities is the hallmark of the City of Karratha's inaugural budget.

***Read more about the budget >>***



## Major projects boosted

More than \$50 million has been set aside for capital expenditure projects.

***Read more about major projects >>***



## Cossack Art Awards opening

Our annual art exhibition in partnership with Rio Tinto opens 20 July at 10am.

***Read more about the art awards >>***



## NAIDOC Week 2014

We had a great turnout this year. Thanks to everyone for making it a success!

***Have a look at the photos >>***



## Leisureplex first birthday

Hard to believe it's already been more than a year since the Leisureplex opened!

***View pics from the birthday party >>***