



Driving Economic Growth in East Arnhem

21 November 2014

A new body to drive regional economic development in East Arnhem was officially launched today by the Northern Territory Government, Rio Tinto Gove Operations and the newly appointed Chairman.

The launch of 'Developing East Arnhem' in Nhulunbuy is an important step in building a strong economic future for the local community with new businesses and industries.

"The launch of Developing East Arnhem today delivers on the joint \$4 million commitment by the Northern Territory Government and Rio Tinto to establish an independent body to drive industry and business growth across the region," Chief Minister Adam Giles said

"This entity will be guided by a high calibre foundation Board of Directors, featuring Chairman John Cossons, Andy Lloyd and Ian Smith. The collective expertise of the Board will be a true asset for East Arnhem, with strong financial acumen, commercial experience, existing links to the region and established networks across the country.

"East Arnhem is emerging as a key element of our Northern Australia development agenda, given the region's considerable natural and cultural assets, as well as its strong service and infrastructure base around the regional hub of Nhulunbuy.

"As the front door to business in the region, Developing East Arnhem is well placed and resourced to be one of the most assertive development bodies in Australia."

Gove Operations General Manager Ben Devries said today's launch of Developing East Arnhem demonstrates Rio Tinto's commitment to being part of a strong future for Nhulunbuy and the surrounding region.

"In addition to our \$2 million seed funding commitment, Rio Tinto is providing up to 250 houses and units to Developing East Arnhem as they become available, so it has a platform to generate income and encourage new and stable economic activity in the region," Mr Devries said.

"Our bauxite mine will continue to help drive the local economy and we look forward to supporting and working with the entity into the future."

Developing East Arnhem will focus on:

- promoting East Arnhem as a business destination
- facilitating business establishment and expansion
- increasing the capability of local industry, and
- supporting the establishment and growth of Indigenous enterprises.

Independent Chairman John Cossons said the Board is looking forward to working collaboratively with business leaders, Traditional Owner groups and all levels of government to deliver positive economic outcomes for the region.



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“We will be a progressive organisation focused on building upon East Arnhem’s competitive advantages, facilitating partnerships and harnessing future opportunities in tourism, forestry and fisheries, mines and energy, education and health and other key industries,” Mr Cossons said.

“Developing East Arnhem is the first port of call for new and existing businesses looking to explore the region’s opportunities or take the next step to establish or expand.

“Our immediate objective is to secure a small but highly qualified and experienced staff that will be the day-to-day face of Developing East Arnhem. We are currently undertaking a recruitment process to appoint a Chief Executive Officer. I am pleased to say we have already attracted nation-wide interest from a number of strong applicants.

“In early 2015, with the support of the appointed CEO, we will focus on expanding the region’s profile and developing a strategic plan in consultation with regional and industry stakeholders.

“On behalf of the Developing East Arnhem foundation Board of Directors, I encourage interested parties to get in touch with us to discuss how we can work together to mutual benefit.”

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