

CEO leaves region on a high note



DEAL's inaugural CEO Carley Scott has announced that she will leave the position at the end of her contract in February 2018.

Ms Scott was appointed CEO of the region's leading economic development organisation in early 2015 and has led a small team in doing big things for the region.

During her three-year term, Ms Scott developed the organisation's first Strategic Plan and has delivered a number of key projects and activities that have strengthened East Arnhem Land's local economy.

DEAL Chairman John Cossons said Ms Scott leaves the region in a more positive position than it was in when she arrived.

"While we are disappointed that Carley has decided to leave DEAL, we are grateful for the unfailing commitment she has shown to ensuring that East Arnhem Land has been able to ride the wave of economic uncertainty and come out the other end a much more invigorated, energised and optimistic community of businesses and residents," he said.

Ms Scott has led significant projects for East Arnhem Land such as establishing the Economic Development Fund, and producing economic modelling and reports that have helped realise millions of dollars of new investment in the region in a very short period of time.

"Carley has also dedicated a significant amount of time to investigate development of the port, and has been heavily involved in ongoing work leading and facilitating the development of Australia's first commercial spaceport," Mr Cossons said. "In addition to providing trustworthy advice and leadership on projects, Carley has done a fantastic job in connecting with the community and raising the profile of East Arnhem Land across the country.

"The work she has done leaves a legacy for East Arnhem Land, DEAL, its partners and stakeholders to continue building on, and our organisation is in a very stable position with strong relationships formed with government, industries and local businesses.



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“On behalf of the Board, I thank Carley for providing a positive voice for East Arnhem Land and we wish her well in the future.”

Ms Scott said that among the many achievements the organisation can celebrate, the Economic Development Fund (EDF) was a highlight.

“It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with so many inspirational and aspiring business owners that see a bright future in East Arnhem for not only their business, but to build their lives,” she said.

“Since the EDF was launched in 2016, we have funded 17 businesses a total of \$1.2M, resulting in direct investment of \$2.5M, and over \$26M of value add into East Arnhem Land and the broader Australian economy, which is a fantastic result.

“Through the EDF and housing, we support more than 260 jobs in the region.”

A significant amount of work has been done by DEAL to deliver the first steps for the Arnhem Space Centre to be built in the region, providing opportunities for jobs, economic growth, education and tourism.

“There are many steps to go but I look forward to watching the Arnhem Space Centre, led by Equatorial Launch Australia, come to fruition along with other exciting projects such as the housing tender and our housing energy project that will significantly reduce air conditioning costs for workers leasing DEAL properties,” Ms Scott said.

“The projects established over the last three years work hand-in-hand with the local Yolngu community, achieving a brighter future for all of East Arnhem Land.

“I would like to thank the Board for putting their trust in me to lead this unique organisation, and our staff for their support over what has been a very fulfilling three years both personally and professionally.

“Living and working in this unique part of Australia has most certainly been a lifetime experience, I will always feel connected to the people and region, and I will take many of the learnings into future endeavours.”

The DEAL Board has commenced the recruitment process in partnership with SHK recruitment and is currently seeking a new CEO to start in early 2018.