



KBCCI

MEDIA RELEASE

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry

16 November 2022

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Land and Housing Position Paper

The KBCCI are excited to announce that the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Land and Housing Position Paper has been completed.

As part of our advocacy, KBCCI engaged Urbis in July 2022 to produce a position paper on the lack of land and housing in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. We collaborated with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and Regional Development Australia to conduct a housing needs assessment to inform our position paper. BHP also supported the production of the report as they recognised the urgency of the issue.

The two-part report contains the results collated from comprehensive research and offers actions and solutions which will be used to lobby to all levels of government to implement the solutions identified in the report.

CEO Simone de Been commented *“One of the biggest issues brought forward by members over the past two years has been the shortage of housing and land available in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the impact this is having on the ability of businesses to attract staff. This has had a flow-on effect and has impacted negatively on the growth and development of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.”*

A survey of KBCCI members in September 2022 garnered 89 responses with key findings that 64 businesses advised that they were affected by land and housing shortages and 58% of businesses advised that they had experienced resignations due to the land and housing shortages. From the 89 businesses who responded, there were 822 jobs currently being advertised.

CEO Simone de Been commented *“We are pleased to have been in a position to collaborate with key stakeholders such as the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance on this issue as we all have recognised the need to plan for the future growth of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. We have also received sponsorship from BHP to produce the report because as a major local employer, they have recognised the urgency of the issue. The paper will also assist Development WA with hard facts and current statistics for the need to release more land”*

Bill McKenzie, KBCCI President commented:

“The shortage of land and housing in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a huge brake on development in this community and it borders on being criminal that there is a lack of urgency to rectify the situation. If Adele was coming to town next week, it would be the only thing anyone wanted to talk about. She isn’t and there isn’t a spare room in town we could accommodate her in if she was. The land and housing shortage is the only thing we should be talking about because we will not fix the staff shortages in every area of business unless we can accommodate newcomers to town - and we can’t fix the accommodation problems unless we have plenty of land to build new accommodation on.”

Not only does new land have to be made available but it has to be affordable so that community members can build homes at a reasonable total package cost – not at a cost that only the wealthy can afford. This town has long aspired to have a population of 50 000. Without an abundance of land to build the required housing on it cannot happen. All parties must address this issue as the highest priority. The Kalgoorlie Land and Housing Position Paper produced by the KBCCI must be the catalyst for action.”

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder CEO Andrew Brien said the City welcomed the position paper, which reinforced the City’s approach towards housing and land development.

“As a City, we aspire to enhance the built environment and provide quality infrastructure, including supporting the development of housing for our community,” Mr Brien said.

“The City has a strategic objective to grow our residential population, and we can’t do that if people don’t have anywhere to live. The City will continue to identify opportunities for residential land development and work with stakeholders, including the State Government, to bring land to market and increase our residential land supply, as well as continuing to advocate for increased investment in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to all levels of government, and to industry.”

Raz Ion, Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance Director commented

“RDA Goldfields Esperance is proud to collaborate with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other funding partners to produce a holistic analysis into the quantitative drivers of demand and impediments to supply when it comes to the availability of land and housing stock in the Goldfields, with key focus on Kalgoorlie.”

High levels of investment and expansion in workforce demands are expected to continue in the region over coming years. Identifying the keys to unlocking bottlenecks to housing supply will enable a higher level of infrastructure and industry development to occur, promote international skilled migration in an increasingly post-COVID environment, as well attract a greater proportion of metropolitan-to-regional population migration that is currently barred by the factors and constraints as outlined in this report.

We remain dedicated to exploring qualitative actions that arise from this report, advocating across all levels of government and industry as well implementing practical, collaborative solutions to alleviate land and housing pressures in the Goldfields.”

Tim Connoley, Director of Urbis will present key findings of the report at the KBCCI's What's Down the Track Forum and Exhibition tomorrow, Thursday, 17 November 2022.

ENDS/

***** Released by Simone de Been, CEO, KBCCI contact 0427 491 961 for further details *****