



Community Conversation: economic development

Community conversations aim to provide a forum for sociable conversation where a small group can come together and discuss opportunities and challenges around a single topic, and help inform the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility project as it progresses.

This inaugural community conversation was held on 11 August 2021, with Councillors and staff from the District Council of Kimba, and a focus on economic development.

Attendees

Mayor Dean Johnson

Deputy Mayor Megan Lienert

Councillor Graeme Baldock

Councillor Peter Rayson

Councillor Brian Cant

Councillor Peta Willmott

Councillor Tom Harris

Deb Larwood, Chief Executive Officer

Michael Inglis, Works Manager

Mel Garibaldi, Economic Development Officer

Areas of discussion

Development opportunities in Kimba

- Land, housing, and accommodation for future workers were identified as key areas where further development could be focussed.
- A range of future tourism opportunities were discussed, including promoting Kimba as the central stopover point, and better promoting 'the wins' such as the free camp being the best free camp in Australia.
- Long term projects to bring people to Kimba could be considered, such as a trades training hub, aviation training, diversification of existing businesses, and tapping into the trucking industry.

Support required to construct and operate a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

- Advice on labour retention, support for increase and decrease in demand, business development, and endorsement of (and confidence in) local contractors were all priorities.
- Improved education and training in a range of areas will also be key.
- Increases to and improvements of health services are necessary to support a larger population in and around the town.

Economic development challenges in Kimba

- Cost of housing, demand for and supply of workers, and town sustainability were identified as key challenges for Kimba.
- Services such as internet, electricity, energy, and telecommunications all provide challenges.

Other considerations

- The need for a permanent doctor in town and potential for volunteer burnout within Kimba were also raised as being vital considerations for economic development activities in the town.