

PILBARA REGIONAL COUNCIL POSITION STATEMENTS



CLOSURE OF REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES



The Pilbara Regional Council:

- Expresses concern and reservations regarding the transition of Municipal and Essential Services (MUNS) funding from Federal control to State and Local Governments.
- Remains concerned about conflicting messages being issued by various officers of the State Government with regard the implementation of transition of MUNS funding from Federal to State Governments.
- Is concerned that any decision to close remote Aboriginal communities will be predicated on economic rationalism rather than a more sophisticated model that considers cultural value and any other elements that contribute to the central fabric of our broader society.
- Is concerned that the State Government has not given sufficient consideration to the impact on regional Local Governments of the decision to close various remote aboriginal communities, including impacts on health, housing, justice, education and other elements of public service delivery.
- Respectfully request that the State and Federal Governments come together for bi-partisan discussions with regard to delaying the implementation of any decision to close remote Aboriginal communities until at least FY17 to allow time for further research and the development of a sophisticated model against which to assess any closure decisions.