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WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION ISSUES IN MID NORTH REGION

“The lack of appropriate workforce accommodation in the Mid North Region is seen as a barrier to economic growth” Chairperson Jeff Burgess has stated.

The Mid North Region has a range of industries experiencing growth and as a consequence of labour and skills shortages are forced to source seasonal, casual and short term contract labour from outside the region. The lack of appropriate workforce accommodation “affects the entire region and acts as a disincentive to existing industries wishing to expand and is a serious barrier to new industries seeking to establish in the region” Mr Burgess further stated.

The Mid North Regional Development Board has recently hosted a “round table” meeting with stakeholders and local government representatives. The main outcome of the discussions was to further refine data collected, research information on any other regional solutions to similar problems and investigate potential funding sources to provide financial support to prepare a business case to address the issue. The Board continues to work on issues such as workforce accommodation as part of its Strategic Plan and the Mid North Region Housing Study 2003, commissioned by the Board, is available on the Board’s website at www.mnrdb.com.au/reports.

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