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Community Recovery and Survival in a Boom and Bust Economy

Submitted by

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Community Recovery and Survival in a Boom and Bust Economy

The State of Western Australia is one of the most productive and diversified mineral and petroleum regions in the world. It is the powerhouse of the resources industry not only in Australia, but for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. However, the resources sector has a long history of boom and bust cycles, reflecting its exposure to international markets and fluctuations in demand and supply. This paper will review three communities in three different Western Australian regions which have experienced industry withdrawals and contractions over a twenty five year period. Two towns have subsequently revived and successfully reinvented themselves while the third is still recovering from a recent substantial industry shut down. This paper will describe how each town responded, the timelines for recovery and the strategies developed which assisted in each community's subsequent revival. Common themes and useful learnings, will be identified.

Professor Fiona Haslam McKenzie PhD

Professor Fiona Haslam Mckenzie was educated in Western Australia and the United States and has a varied academic background including a PhD in political geography, researching the effects of demographic and economic change on rural communities in Western Australia. Professor Haslam McKenzie has extensive experience in population and socio-economic change, regional economic development and analysis of regional and urban socio-economic indicators. She has published widely and undertaken work for the corporate and small business sectors as well as all three tiers of government, both nationally and in Western Australia.

Professor Haslam McKenzie is currently the Director of the Housing and Urban Research Institute of Western Australia, a joint venture between Curtin and Murdoch Universities. She is also the director of Research at the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy at Curtin University.