

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT (EDG)

Wedgetail Aerospace Pty Ltd – Pilbara Drone Operational Hub Proof of Concept

Assessment Criteria	Description	Administration Comments
1.Strategic Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to Council's Vision and Strategic Themes with particular focus on Council's Economic Development Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with the City's strategies and Operational Plan. Specifically, the proposal will assist the City to deliver against Strategy 2.d.2 in the City's Strategic Community Plan to promote the region as a business destination. It will also support various strategies in the City's Economic Development Strategy to attract and support the establishment of new businesses.
2.Economic Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significance of the potential direct economic impact and return benefit of the project in the City of Karratha and how these results will be measured. Extent to which the application leverages the strategic advantages and existing assets. Potential benefits for local suppliers, businesses and/or engagement with local stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial PoC is expected to provide some direct economic benefit to the City through local spend on the delivery of the project. This is likely to include spend with accommodation and hospitality providers for those directly involved with the project. The establishment of the drone hub (if successful) has significant potential for local economic benefit through development of an emerging industry, creation of local jobs, and reduction of operational costs for existing local industry.

3.Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated demand and need for the project. • Identify all funding sources, both confirmed and sought, and contributors and/or partners to the project, and the extent that the funding is leveraged. • Amount that the project can be utilised by other organisations to create further economic development activities in the City of Karratha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal has a clearly identified need, however as it is an emerging industry the actual demand for this technology is untested at this stage. • The costs involved in working towards regulatory approvals, including leasing and insurance for the platforms (i.e. drones), is significant. • Whilst the request to the City exceeds previous funding approvals for similar projects, the funding is being leveraged through Wedgetail's own capital and EATP funding. • If a drone hub is established in Karratha as a result of this project, it would have significant flow on benefits for businesses in the City and generate additional economic development opportunities.
4.Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility and long term viability of the project and organisation including any contingency plans that will lead to successful implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal includes extensive research on the potential for the heavy drone industry supported by the Deloitte report provided by Wedgetail and commissioned by the Federal Government. • It is considered that some form of drone service has a likelihood of commercialisation in the Pilbara in the future.

5.Project Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a complete project plan detailing objectives of the project, full project budget, timelines and methodology. • Capacity to manage financial and funding accountabilities of the project, as well as their overall project management capabilities. • Inclusion of a communication and/or marketing plan associated with the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal includes a clearly defined project plan and budget and Wedgetail has demonstrated capacity to manage the delivery of the project given their successful management of previous grant funding from the Federal Government. • A communication or marketing plan was not included in the proposal.
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