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Sector puts \$2b into region

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More than \$2 billion was injected by the resources sector into the Pilbara community in 2018-19, according to data from a survey released last month by the sector's peak representative body.

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy revealed the State's mining, oil and gas, energy and contractor services contributed \$2.3b to the Pilbara region.

The figure was released in its annual economic fact sheets after surveying 53 of its members. The contributions went to supporting 10,262 full-time local jobs, equating to \$1.6b in wages and salaries.

Some \$557 million was also spent on purchasing goods and services from 682 local businesses and suppliers, as well as financially supporting 213 community organisations and four local governments.

CME director of policy and advocacy Rob Carruthers said it was fundamentally important to support residents, businesses and community organisations.

"A number of our members have considerable workforces based in Karratha and across the Pilbara, and they benefit from community organisations that do well, so whether that's sporting organisations or social support organisations," he said.

"There is a lot of upside in those numbers in terms of those that are employed and spend money locally and put their kids through local schools because of our sector.

"For cities like Karratha, when the industry is doing well and investing, then you see the flow-on investment by government and also co-investment with industry with new facilities."

Mr Carruthers said the survey was just a snapshot, meaning the actual contribution figure was likely to be higher.

"It's not lost on our numbers and it's not lost on our sector that the Pilbara is crucial to the sector's economic success," he said.

"The Pilbara is the powerhouse of our sector in the State and it's underwritten the last 10-15 years of growth, and it will be absolutely crucial to seeing not just the Pilbara and the State out of this economic crisis but also the nation, and we shouldn't forget that."

Mr Carruthers said moving he hoped to see people continue to live in the Pilbara and spend their money locally, as well as seeing more local businesses gaining work from the resources sector.