



Regional Development SA

Quarterly Communiqué

An update from Regional Development South Australia

Welcome to our latest Regional Development South Australia update - I'd like to start by welcoming some new faces and farewelling long-term contributors to the Regional Development Australia network across South Australia. We welcome Leonie Boothby to the role of RDA Barossa CEO having previously been the Executive Officer to Spencer Gulf Cities and farewell Anne Moroney who worked as both business adviser and CEO of RDA Barossa for 17 years. We have also welcomed to the RDA CEO network Daniel Willson, who takes up the role of RDA Yorke and Mid North CEO having previously been their Economic & Workforce Manager. And finally, after 12 years Kelly- Anne Saffin moves from RDA Yorke and Mid North to the role of RDA Adelaide CEO promoting economic development across all South Australia regions.

In regional South Australia economic conditions continue to show buoyant trends. RDA's collate a forward investment pipeline of public/private investments and the most current data, to 31 March 2023 is tracking 698 projects with a combined CAPEX of \$42.01B. These investments must be under active contemplation, funding consideration and/ or construction in the next five years to be included. While this investment will not always be realised it gives a very good indicator of business sentiment in regional South Australia and 22/23 stands at the highest since 17/18 when RDA's commenced collating this intelligence for the Minister for Primary Industries & Regions.

All this is the context of the release of some key regional data by the Regional Institute of Australia showing that:

- In the December 2022 quarter the top national LGA's by annual growth in total net internal migration (as a %) was Port Pirie Regional Council, followed closely in 3rd place by City of Murray Bridge. At this point we are reminded that in September 2022 the City of Mount Gambier took the honours, followed by City of Whyalla in 4th place and City of Port Lincoln in 5th place. The lesson, the percentage growth in population growth is significant, and spread right across regional South Australia's provincial cities.
- This is coupled with an increasing demand for jobs, the Regional Job Vacancies report tells us that in January 2023 the largest monthly increases in vacancy was in Port Augusta & Eyre Peninsula (up 7.6% 625 to 581). And in the 12 months from January 2022 that Port Augusta & Eyre Peninsula is the best performer nationally with a jump in vacancies of 28.3%. Not to be outdone the December 2022 figures show that Yorke Peninsula & Clare Valley led the nation up 33% in a year.

A couple of new opportunities come out of the Australian Government budget from this Tuesday- the Growing Regions program is opening in July with \$300M available for projects across regional and rural Australia. To find out more go to: [Growing Regions Program](#). The Australian Government also announced a new Regional Investment Framework which includes the introduction of formalised Regional Impact Assessment's. The Regional Budget statement outlines a specific role for RDA's in the framework where Regional Development Australia committees will ensure local priorities are heard and help shape outcomes.

All of this point to an opportunity to work together and continue to sustain South Australia's regional growth and attract people to our thriving regions. We invite you to join in the regional activities underway in the RDA network across South Australia and assist us to grow the South Australian economy.

Hon Rob Kerin

Chair, Regional Development South Australia:

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RDA Adelaide

- **RDSA Chairs Strategic Planning Session** - RDA Adelaide through our Chair, Jan Turbill hosted the RDA and RDSA Chairs in Adelaide in March of this year to finalise our whole of Regional Adelaide workplan for the next 18 months and the commitment to a unique collaboration.
- **Economic Opportunity of Migration in South Australia** - RDA Adelaide commissioned BDO Australia to produce a detailed economic analysis of the opportunity for increased migration to South Australia- Economic Opportunity of Migration for the South Australia: Case Studies for the Hospitality and Aged Care Industries. The report found that with 290 current vacancies in December 2022 in regional SA that in addition to the employment and production of the migrants themselves, the onflow would create 173 FTE jobs and \$21.8M of gross state product in the South Australian economy through flow-on effects. Across regional South Australia, this includes approximately 120 FTE jobs and \$15.1M of gross regional product in flow-on effects. The full report can be found [here](#)
- **Launch of Regional Development South Australia Economic Profiling Website** - The addition of RDA Adelaide as a user of the economic modelling capability of id Population experts has led to the commissioning of a specific South Australia site for economic analysis for show comparative data between RDA regions in South Australia, Regional South Australia and Adelaide Metropolitan which gives us additional capacity to track Gross Domestic Product, Population and Business and Industry outcomes- the new site is available [here](#)



RDA Adelaide Hills/Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island

- **Ag Tech and Ag Careers** - RDA AHFKI sponsored 10 farmers from across the region to attend eVoke Ag 2023 held in Adelaide to talk about agrifood innovation and tech with an impressive lineup up of Australian and international speakers. RDA AHFKI sponsored and supported the inaugural Fleurieu AgFest 2023 held at Yankalilla. More than 250 school students from across the Fleurieu region attended the event initiated by Yankalilla District Council. The event showcased career pathways available in ag and related industries.
- **Strategic Industry Supports** - RDA AHFKI provided mentorship and financial assistance for Fleurieu Milk Company to develop a business case for a new visitor destination and industry skills centre. The visitor centre will be a new tourism destination for the Fleurieu, leveraging the growing tourism status of Milk Company and endorsed by the dairy industry.
- **Aviation** - RDA AHFKI led a collaborative effort with stakeholders to develop a submission to the Australian Government's Aviation White Paper. The submission reinforced the role and importance socially and economically of regional and remote airports like Kingscote Airport. We also advocated for the need for changes to the operating and funding model which currently relies heavily on the Kangaroo Island Council. Myponga. The industry skills centre will be a national first that leverages an industry training program developed by Fleurieu



RDA Barossa, Light, Gawler, Adelaide Plains

- **Land Use Planning Forum** - On the 31 March 2023 the Annual Northern and Yorke Regional Forum was hosted in Tanunda focusing on Land Use and jointly facilitated by Legatus Group of Councils, Northern & Yorke Landscapes, RDA Barossa Light Gawler & Adelaide Plains & RDA Yorke and Mid North. The day attracted more than 120 attendees featuring 16 speakers including Craig Holden Chair State Planning Commission, Amanda Price-McGregor Managing Director Green Light Planning Solutions, Rachel Brdanovic Tandem Energy and RDABGLAP Board Member, Stephen Smith Policy Advisor Local Government Association SA and Michael Hickinbotham Managing Director of the Hickinbotham Group.
- **Regional Sector Development Plans** - RDA Barossa have commenced working on regionally specific sector development strategies for Food, Primary Industry and Creative Industries as well as undertaking detailed workforce and skills mapping covering gaps, opportunities and enablers for the Barossa Region.
- **Barossa B2B Program** - The Barossa B2B program which was established continues to have strong attendance and as well as supporting one on one mentoring for the businesses and business workshops, over 100 small businesses have attended workshop including business planning, social media, Websites 101, re-building web content and writing effective grant applications.



RDA Eyre Peninsula

- **New Brand for the EP** - RDAEP revealed a new Eyre Peninsula brand Eyre - The Wild Side for the region's tourism marketing. The brand was revealed on Thursday 30 March 2023 at an event attended by over 100 tourism stakeholders including the Honourable Zoe Bettison, Minister for Tourism and new South Australian Tourism Commission CEO Emma Terry. To find out more about the brand you can see Eyre Peninsula at its best here [EYRE - THE WILD SIDE](#)
- **Health Roundtable** - on 3 April 2023 in Kimba RDAEP, with the Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance (NEPHA) and Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) jointly facilitated a Health Roundtable to address the critical GP shortage in the region. Senator Karen Grogan (representing Australian Government Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler) was in attendance. NEPHA and EPLGA Chair, Kimba Mayor Dean Johnson, outlined a pilot project for regional health services delivery that replaces costly locum services with contracted GPs engaged across the region.
- **New Strategic Plan** - RDA Eyre Peninsula in partnership with Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association and Eyre Peninsula Landscapes Board in March 2023 launched a new Eyre Peninsula Strategic Plan outlining a joint vision and opportunities to grow the region focused on 2023- 2026. A copy of the Strategic Plan can be found [here](#)



RDA Far North

- **Regional Capacity Building** – RDA Far North has continued to support the Port Augusta Uni Hub campus with a bursary fund to assist students from the Far North region with study costs as well as working with the UniHub in their expansion of service provision to Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy.
- **Regional Value Add** – Far North delivered a strategic response plan to help a remote community meet the challenges and opportunities when Kati-Thanda Lake Eyre water events create an enormous influx of visitors to the community increasing their population tenfold overnight including provision of economic analysis of the impact and input into a Flood Management Tourism Plan.
- **Regional Leadership & Industry Briefings** – RDA Far North recently facilitated a regional leader's event with keynote address focused on the Port Playford site project providing regional stakeholders an understanding around the project and opportunities the project brings to the region.



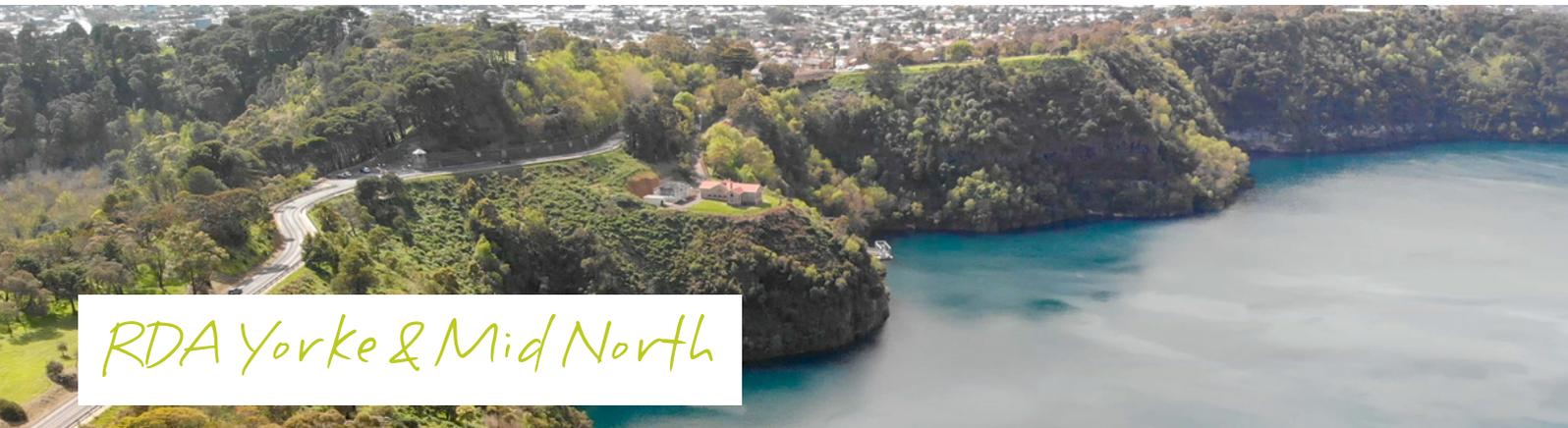
RDA Limestone Coast

- **State Planning Commission Workshop** – CEO David Wheaton and Lauren Oxlade attended a workshop delivered by the State Planning Commission. The Commission is commencing preparation of a new regional plan for the region. The plan will spatially map the South Australian Government's long-term vision for growth and this plan will play a significant role in identifying land and long-term infrastructure needs to support sustainable growth within the region and how this can be accommodated over a 15 to 30-year period.
- **Opening of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre** – Mayor of Mount Gambier Lynette Martin OAM was joined by Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government the Hon. Catherine King MP, and Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development, Forest Industries Clare Scriven MLC to officially open the Centre. RDALC are proud to have assisted on the funding applications for the Centre, with funding received from the Australian Government, State Government, City of Mount Gambier, and District Council of Grant.
- **Region Ready Specialist Seminar** – hosted by RDALC, we were joined by 23 people who were keen to find out more about how to create a healthy workplace. The Healthy Workplaces Seminar was delivered by Kylie Cocks from Wellbeing SA and Mardi Webber from Return to Work SA. They brought their expertise in the areas of workplace health and wellbeing, sharing the healthy workplaces roadmap and many helpful resources, inspiring the participants to work on creating a healthy workplace.



RDA Murraylands & Riverland

- **Murray River flood event** - said to be the largest declared natural disaster in the State's history, has heavily impacted much of the Murraylands and Riverland region. During the peak of the emergency response period from November 2022 to present, RDAMR staff have been on call, connecting with businesses and impacted communities to understand their immediate needs and connect them to support. As observers on the Zone Emergency Support Team (ZEST) meeting, RDAMR learnt from and contributed to the State's response, with a focus on community- and business-level impacts. With waters now receding across much of the impacted areas, we turn our attention to recovery. RDAMR continues to connect with businesses, communities and various government departments as we work to uncover the true toll of this disaster. As a member of the River Murray Community Recovery Committee, RDAMR will continue to be an important connector for our communities and businesses as we work together on how to build back better.
- **Murraylands and Riverland Plan (MR Plan)** - with feedback from independent assessors now received, RDAMR will be reviewing the MR Plan and working to advance the 22 community led recommendations that were developed through the process. Our communities told us that they need the right long term support, including a greater ability to advance existing capabilities in local leadership and community capacities. The 22 recommendations of the MR Plan continue to be the foundation for future programs and strategic goals of RDAMR, and are at the very core of our purpose of connecting our region for a more resilient and sustainable future.
- **Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP)** - the two-year, State government funded program has gained significant traction with formation of a Steering Committee of 12 diverse and knowl members from across the MR region. Initial meetings have endorsed the Murraylands and Riverland leadership gap analysis and assessed many leadership training provider packages, with a preferred leadership training provider to commence delivery in the coming weeks. The RLDP project team and Steering Committee look forward to delivering an adaptable, place-based and well-balanced leadership program for emerging leaders throughout 2023.



RDA Yorke & Mid North

- **HIMS program** - the first intake saw 11 job seekers completing the program, with half already securing employment. Intake two commenced in February with 15 students starting. Our Project Advisory Group have highlighted their desire to continue the program to help address workforce shortages, with a concept paper being progressed to source funding.
- **Telecommunications Connectivity** - we have undertaken a community survey to collect data on current mobile black spots, with more than 50 responses collected. The findings have been incorporated into our register of 250 black spots, which will be used for submissions to inform the prioritisation of new telecommunications projects.
- **Northern and Yorke Regional Drought Resilience Plan** - the Steering Committee reviewed feedback from the draft plan, with changes being integrated into the final draft submitted for review by the (Commonwealth) Minister responsible for drought.