

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL SUMMIT

EVENT PROGRAM



THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA- TRANSITION TO NET ZERO, A CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND AI

Wednesday 2 October 2024 | 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Central Oval – 10 Augusta Terrace, Port Augusta

Thank you to our summit partner- .id Informed Decisions



#RDSASummit2024

The path to Net Zero



How does regional South Australia maximise its potential?

SESSION 1

7:30am - 10:20am

7:30am	Registration	
8:00am	Conference start: Welcome & Housekeeping	Mike Smithson
8:10am	Welcome to Port Augusta, Acknowledgement of Country & Introduction to Minister Claire Scriven MLC	Mayor Linley Shine - Mayor, Port Augusta City Council
8:25am	Opening & Welcome	Hon Clare Scriven MLC - Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries
8:40am	What are the opportunities for regional South Australia to maximise on the transition to Net Zero?	Richard Bolt - Principal Nous Group Consulting, Chair Hydro Tasmania, Member of Climate Change Authority and Founding Member Net Zero Australia
9:00am	Net Zero Transition- Hydrogen's future in regional South Australia.	Sam Crafter PSM - CE, Office of Hydrogen Power SA
9:20am	How policymakers can better support the transition to net zero.	Rachel Brdanovic - CEO, Tandem Energy
9:40am	Industry Perspectives- How does Regional SA make the most of the Net Zero opportunity. Facilitated Panel Discussion + Q&A	Sam Crafter PSM - CE, Office of Hydrogen Power SA Rachel Brdanovic - CEO, Tandem Energy Richard Bolt - Principal, Nous Group Consulting Tori Castledine - Community & Social Performance, Fortescue
10:20am	Morning Tea & Message from Minister Kristy McBain MP , Minister for Regional Development, Local Government & Territories	

The path to Net Zero



The Nature and Circular Economy- how does regional South Australia lead?

SESSION 2

10:50am - 12:30pm

10:50am What are the Circular Economy Metrics for Australia and where do the opportunities lie? **Lisa McLean** - CEO, Circular Australia, Member of Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group

11:10am What is the Green Economy in South Australia look like and how do we get there? **Professor Ian Overton** - Principal, Natural Economy

11:30am Circular Economy in Action- Industry Projects in South Australia
Facilitated Panel Discussion + Q&A **Craig Cresp** - General Manager of Operations (Upper Spencer Gulf), Hallett Group
Daniel Palumbo & Frank Vounasis - Leinad Land Developments, Dublin Circular Economy
Lisa McLean - CEO, Circular Australia
Professor Ian Overton - Director, Natural Economy

12:10pm Powering the Transition: The net zero workforce challenge and Clean Energy Precincts. **Andrew Barker** - Head of Research, Committee for Economic Development Australia

12.30pm Lunch

The Future in regional SA



Agriculture and the path to Net Zero, AI and what does it mean for regional South Australia

Wildcard: Upper Spencer Gulf RDAs

SESSION 3

1:00pm - 3:30pm

1:00pm	Carbon Accounting in Agriculture and its implications and opportunities.	Sarah Barrett - Lead Consultant- Sustainability Strategy, Pinion Advisory
1:20pm	How do industries collaborate on carbon opportunities and challenges? Facilitated Panel Discussion + Q&A	Caroline Rhodes - CEO, Primary Producers SA Sarah Barrett - Lead Consultant- Sustainability Strategy, Pinion Advisory Professor Andrew Beer - Executive Dean, University of South Australia Business Cate Hart - Executive Director, Environment Heritage and Sustainability
2:00pm	Re-skilling our workforce for the renewable energy sector	Mandy Masters - Local Coordinator – New Energy Apprentices Mentoring Program, MGA Group
2:10pm	Trends and movements in regional South Australia's economy.	Keenan Jackson - Economic Development Specialist, id Informed Decisions
2:30pm	Implications of AI advancements and cybersecurity for regional development.	Associate Professor Mamello Thinyane - Optus Chair of Cybersecurity and Data Science, UniSA STEM
2:50pm	Wildcard Topic- The Run Home- Upper Spencer Gulf RDAs	Claire Wiseman - CEO, RDA Far North Ryan Viney - CEO, RDA Eyre Peninsula Daniel Willson - CEO, RDA Yorke & Mid North
3:10pm	Launch of RDSA Regional Blueprint & Closing Remarks	Kelly-Anne Saffin - CEO, RDA Adelaide Hon Rob Kerin - Executive Chair, Regional Development South Australia

Session One:



MIKE SMITHSON

Emcee

Mike Smithson is one of the most experienced reporters and presenters in the Seven Network, having worked as a television journalist and newsreader for 42 years. He was awarded the prestigious Journalist of the Year in South Australia plus numerous other awards for his work on television and in newspapers for his political commentary and critique, where he's influenced public opinion. For 25 years Mike was the senior political reporter in Adelaide having covered many changes of government. During his long journalistic career, he's also interviewed every Prime Minister: from Gough Whitlam to Albo – 11 in all. Mike is currently Chief Reporter and weekend news presenter. He is a regular political commentator on FIVEaa and ABC Radio.



MAYOR LINLEY SHINE

Mayor, Port Augusta City Council



Linley has been a board member of RDA Far North since September 2021. She currently serves as the Deputy Chair of RDA Far North and is a Board Member of Spencer Gulf Cities, which comprises the cities of Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Whyalla. Additionally, she is involved with the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC). Linley has extensive knowledge and experience in Government Social Policy, Corporate Governance, and Social Service delivery. She commenced her career as an Australian Government public servant, focusing on Indigenous Affairs, social policy, inclusion, and delivery. After twenty-six years, Linley transitioned to the not-for-profit sector with a focus on social vulnerability and inclusion. Her career has involved engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders across regional and remote South Australia, including the three Upper Spencer Gulf cities, the Flinders, Far North, Eyre, and Western Regions of South Australia, including the APY Lands.



HON CLARE SCRIVEN MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Minister for Forest Industries



Clare Scriven was raised in Mount Gambier and returned to the region with her family after living and working in Adelaide for some years. Clare is committed to regional development, improving educational opportunities, supporting small business, and promoting the importance of primary industries sectors. Prior to entering Parliament in 2018, Clare's career spanned forest industries, human resources, government policy and service delivery. Clare's post-graduate studies in management and business have complemented her diverse working background. Clare is passionate about regional communities. As a member of the Legislative Council, she represents all South Australians. She and her husband, Gerard, have six children.

Session One:



RICHARD BOLT

Principal Nous Group Consulting, Chair Hydro Tasmania, Member of Climate Change Authority and Founding Member Net Zero Australia



Richard is a Principal of Nous Group, Chair of Hydro Tasmania, member of the Climate Change Authority, and independent chair of a Japan-Australia taskforce to commercialise a clean hydrogen supply chain. He is a highly experienced strategist on the clean energy transition and led three Victorian government departments over 12 years. He is a Steering Committee member of the Net Zero Australia project, a partnership of Melbourne, Queensland and Princeton universities and Nous Group. Richard's previous board and council memberships include the Stakeholder Advisory Group to the Chief Scientist on a National Hydrogen Strategy; the Advisory Board at the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy; the National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament and the Victorian Secretaries Board. He was previously the Victorian rural assistance commissioner, the chair of the Grampians Regional Management Forum and the Animal Welfare and Product Integrity Committee, director of Schools connect Australia and the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership, and deputy chair of the National Emissions Trading Task Force.



SAM CRAFTER PSM

CE, Office of Hydrogen Power SA



Sam is the Chief Executive for the Office of Hydrogen Power SA. Sam's career, with a focus on the energy and resources industries for over 20 years, has included project implementation, commercial advisory, public affairs, communications, and reputation management in the public and private sector. Formerly as Executive Director, Energy Implementation with the South Australian Government, Sam led the operation of new-style energy initiatives, including the world's original biggest battery at the Hornsdale Power Reserve, the \$100m Home Battery Scheme, the \$50m Grid Scale Storage Fund and South Australia's Virtual Power Plant using public housing stock.



RACHEL BRDANOVIC

CEO, Tandem Energy



Rachel Brdanovic founded Tandem Energy in 2010. Her mission is to contribute to climate action by creating lasting change within client organisations. She specialises in identifying opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and operating costs, and developing strategy to support these changes. She has a Master of Sustainability and a Bachelor of Science (Maths and Computer Science). These form the base of her broad understanding of many sustainability based issues and the skills she uses every day to collect and analyse data for her clients, helping them make informed decisions relating to best practice equipment upgrades, risk mitigation and policy changes. She is a Climate Active registered consultant, qualified trainer and Living Smart facilitator.

Session One:



MINISTER KRISTY MCBAIN MP

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government & Territories



From her early days in Traralgon in Victoria, to moving to Merimbula on the NSW Far South Coast – Kristy McBain has dedicated herself to being a fierce advocate for regional communities. As Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Kristy is focused on collaborating with local leaders across our regions to harness opportunities and to build thriving regional economies. Kristy studied law at the University of Canberra – the first in her family to attend university, and is also the first woman to represent the seat of Eden-Monaro in NSW, following a by-election in 2020. As Mayor, she led her community through the devastating 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires, and this tireless commitment and leadership has continued in her role as Member for Eden-Monaro.

From providing more skills and employment opportunities, enhancing access to key services, improving infrastructure and connectivity, and ensuring communities are better prepared for natural disasters – Kristy is a strong voice in Canberra for the issues impacting regional Australia.

Video Address



TORI CASTLEDINE

Community & Social Performance, Fortescue



Tori joined Fortescue in May 2022, and is responsible for the community and stakeholder engagement, social performance and First Nations engagement functions for the company's renewable energy projects across SA and WA. Tori is passionate about regional development, and ensuring these communities are lifelong places to live, visit, work and invest. Having been a lifelong resident of regional WA, and previously being the Deputy Chair of RDA Goldfields-Esperance, Tori has a deep and genuine understanding of the unique challenges regional communities face.

Session Two:



LISA MCLEAN

CEO, Circular Australia, Member of Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group



Lisa is a circular economy and zero-carbon business transformation leader. She has been successfully advising industry and governments in developing new policy frameworks and regulations that bring about market change to enable the circular zero-carbon economy over the past 14 years. This work has covered the energy, water, waste and mobility sectors in the UK and Australia. Lisa established and led the Open Cities Alliance, a peak industry association with unique membership from government to private sector and research organisations. Open Cities advocates for the circular economy, prosumer rights and new local utility and mobility precinct approaches.



PROFESSOR IAN OVERTON

Principal, Natural Economy



Ian has over 30 years' experience in business, research, academic and government, including positions as Chief Executive Officer of Green Industries SA, a State Government agency, Professor (affiliate) with the University of Adelaide and a Principal Research Scientist with the CSIRO. Ian is currently the Principal of Natural Economy, a consultancy in sustainable economic development. He has a passion for sustainability and enhancing environmental, social, and economic outcomes and the implementation of the circular economy. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree with Honours and a PhD. He also has a Graduate Certificate in Management, an MBA and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



CRAIG CRESP

General Manager of Operations (Upper Spencer Gulf), Hallett Group



Craig Cresp joined The Hallett Group in November 2022 as General Manager Operations (USG) where his primary focus was to establish the presence of Hallett in the region as Hallett commenced its Green Cement Processing Hub project in Port Augusta. The Processing Hub in Port Augusta forms one of two parts of Hallett's \$125M capital investment with their Green Cement Transformation Project; the most significant carbon reduction innovation project ever contemplated in the Australian cement and concrete industry. With the project well underway, with already 5 locally employed staff, the processing hub in Port Augusta will employ up to 50 people and operate for 40+ years, injecting many millions of dollars into the local economy through direct and indirect spend.



DANIEL PALUMBO

Leinad Land Developments, Dublin Circular Economy



Daniel is the Managing Director of Palumbo. He has over a decade of experience in the construction industry, having delivered a multitude of successful projects for government and private sector clients. He is a business winner, opportunity seeker and the primary interface with clients and project stakeholders. Daniel is a qualified engineer and very knowledgeable regarding property development, planning, sales and delivery. He is adept in providing in-depth assessments of economic prospects and opportunities for developments.

Session Two:



FRANK VOUNASIS

Leinad Land Developments, Dublin Circular Economy



Since 2002 actively and successfully led a series of businesses predominantly in South Australia through the provision of services in the fields of food importation, hospitality, construction, business development, property consultancy, project management and property development. Frank has been the primary natural person responsible for the purchase and/or development of property developments predominantly in South Australia with a combined value of which is in excess of \$300,000,000. Currently the highlights in the pipeline are the Bute Quarry, Kadina Central, Virginia Park Estate (VPE), The Angle Vale Innovation Park (AVIP) and Dublin the Circular Green Economy.



ANDREW BARKER

Head of Research, Committee for Economic Development Australia



Andrew Barker is Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA's) Head of Research and based in Brisbane. He was previously a Senior Economist and Head of Desk in the OECD economics department, focusing on climate, labour market, productivity and housing policy. As a Research Manager at the Productivity Commission, he led quantitative work on water, gas and labour markets and contributed to public inquiries on infrastructure access, automotive manufacturing, service exports and the economic effects of migration.

Session Three:



SARAH BARRETT

Lead Consultant- Sustainability Strategy, Pinion Advisory



Sarah is the team leader for sustainability strategy at Pinion Advisory based in Freeling, South Australia. Sarah brings climate resilient thinking to the range of Pinion's business areas including environmental services, on-farm production, agri-business and sustainability strategy. With experience in viticulture, broadacre cropping, grazing systems and agroecology, Sarah sees carbon farming as an area of rapid growth and growing interest. Sarah works in emissions reduction, climate adaptation and change management for producers, processors, and end users of agricultural products.



PROFESSOR ANDREW BEER

*Professor Andrew Beer - Executive Dean,
University of South Australia Business*



Andrew Beer is a senior leader within the University of South Australia and has taught and undertaken research in the sector for almost 30 years. His expertise lies in the areas of regional policy and development, housing research - including issues of homelessness, affordability and the operation of property markets and in the growth processes affecting regional cities. Andrew has worked as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Plymouth and was a Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Ulster. Andrew has served as Chair of the Regional Studies Association, and is the Chair of the Homelessness Strategy Group for the South Australian Government. Andrew works at the University of South Australia and is the Executive Dean, Business.

CATE HART

*Executive Director, Environment Heritage and
Sustainability*



Cate Hart is currently the Executive Director for the Environment, Heritage and Sustainability Division within the Department for Environment and Water. This division is responsible for policy and strategy development and administration of legislation, and manages state portfolios which include climate change, flood and coastal management, native vegetation and natural resource management, pastoral lands and built heritage management. Cate has had a significant career in local government together with the private sector, most recently holding the position of CEO of the City of Prospect since March 2016. Prior to this, she undertook a CEO role with Wakefield Regional Council where she was very involved in Natural Resource Management and Economic Development; and she has held General Manager roles with the South Australian Local Government Association and City of Playford.

Session Three:



CAROLINE RHODES

CEO, Primary Producers SA



Caroline has more than two decades of agribusiness experience, having held senior roles in both the public and private sector and with state and federal farmer representative bodies in Australia, including the former South Australian Farmers' Federation and the Grains Council of Australia. She was the CEO of Grain Producers SA prior to joining PPSA, and brings skills in strategic communications, stakeholder management and regulatory affairs. Caroline brings extensive experience in corporate governance and has served on a wide range of industry and community sector boards. Her current board appointments include the Australian Farm Institute, the South Australian Cricket Association, Foodbank South Australia and Rural Business Support.



MANDY MASTERS

Coordinator of the New Energy Apprenticeship Mentoring Program for South Australia



As a Business owner and Business Development/ Account manager for over 25 years in the Upper Spencer Gulf, Far North and Eyre Peninsula, my career has been nothing short of passion and diversity where I built a strong connection to the region in Tourism, Employment and Training, Mining & Energy sector and more. Although recently retired, the future of our region is one I remain invested in. Excited to be part of launching the NEAM program in SA with Australian Renewable Academy as we embrace the New energy revolution and the opportunities it brings.



KEENAN JACKSON

Economic Development Specialist, id Informed Decisions



Keenan is an economic development specialist with a passion for analysing how cities and regions evolve over time. He has spent the last 15 years working in the private sector and the Victorian State Government to provide specialist advice to local governments, helping them understand the forces shaping their economies and communities. He has specialist economic knowledge and expertise in city competitiveness, regional development, cluster analysis, innovation system development, and complexity economics.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MAMELLO THINYANE

*Optus Chair of Cybersecurity and Data Science,
UniSA STEM*



Mamello Thinyane is the Optus Chair of Cybersecurity and Data Science and an Associate Professor in the STEM unit at the University of South Australia. He has over 15 years experience working with governments, industry, academia, and civil society organizations on digital development projects in Africa and Asia. He previously served as the Senior Research Advisor and Principal Research Fellow at the United Nations University institute in Macau, a Director of the Telkom Centre of Excellence in ICT for Development and an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Fort Hare in South Africa, and a Visiting Researcher at the Australian Centre for Cyber Security at the University of New South Wales– Australian Defence Force Academy.

Session Three:



RYAN VINEY

CEO, RDA Eyre Peninsula



Ryan was appointed CEO of Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula in December 2021 and is responsible for facilitating economic development and promoting the region by supporting industry growth, infrastructure investment and job creation; developing partnerships and networks; and providing advocacy, leadership, and coordination under the RDA umbrella. With tertiary qualifications in both Environment Management and Urban and Regional Town Planning, Ryan has over 10 years of experience in senior positions in local government, including roles at the Local Government Association of South Australia, Zero Waste SA, Barossa and Light Regional Economic Development Board, and more recently as a member of the Executive Management Team at the Town of Gawler.



DANIEL WILLSON

CEO, RDA Yorke & Mid North



Dan leads a passionate and committed team dedicated to growing the economic prosperity and enhancing the liveability of the Yorke and Mid North region. Collectively, RDA Yorke and Mid North brings together strong local industry and regional linkages with specific workforce development expertise with Dan's own background as an economist, commercial adviser and public policy practitioner to deliver a collaborative, evidence-based approach to solving problems and seizing opportunities in the resources, heavy industries and constructions sectors to grow the pipeline of job-ready workers locally, and with it the economic prosperity of the Yorke and Mid North region.



CLAIRE WISEMAN

CEO, RDA Far North



It was Claire's passion for working with regional communities that led her to the then Northern Regional Development Board in 2005, where she was employed as an Economic Development Officer. Claire has undertaken a variety of different roles within the organisation including managing its transition to Regional Development Australia Far North in late 2010. Claire was appointed Chief Executive Officer in early 2012 and continues to lead an amazing team focused on delivering positive outcomes for businesses and industry in the Far North region.

Session Three:



HON ROB KERIN

Chair - Regional Development South Australia



Rob is a Former Premier of South Australia and has held various ministries including Primary Industries, Regional Development, Industries and Resources, Forestry, State Development and Tourism. In addition to having been the Chair of Regional Development South Australia for 14 years he is currently Deputy Chair of the Regional Australian Institute, Chair S.A Oyster Growers Association and SA Oyster Research Council, President of South Australian National Football League (SANFL), Chair Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority and Chair Adelaide Oval Hotel Trust.



KELLY-ANNE SAFFIN

CEO, Regional Development Australia Adelaide



Kelly-Anne Saffin joined RDA Adelaide in late 2022 after spending the previous 10 years as CEO of Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North where she was responsible for the leadership and management of the board and the delivery of its key strategic goals and strategies. With her workforce team they delivered over 10,000 hours of training and 3000 employment outcomes. Her background also encompasses State Government (DTED) and other Regional Development roles in the Limestone Coast and Eyre Peninsula.

