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Quarterly
NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM THE CEO

Regions in Focus Roadshow

In collaboration with the Minister for Regional Development, The Hon Geoff Brock and Primary Industries and Regions SA, the RDALC recently invited a group of regional leaders to participate in a Regions in Focus Roadshow event. This Roadshow was one of 8 held across regional South Australia over a three month period, aimed at identification and selection of priority areas in which to focus our efforts.

Representatives from community, business, industry and local government looked at the current economic development priorities identified within various regional planning documents and discussed their ongoing relevance and also sought to identify any gaps or emerging priority areas. Participants were then tasked with identifying three priority areas to be the focus of a collaborative effort between the region and the State Government, to accelerate regional economic development over the next 3 year period.

Regional Working Groups will be established to progress the identified priority areas.

Climate Change Adaptation Project

RDALC, the South East Local Government Association and the South East Natural Resources Management Board have partnered to develop an action plan to ensure our communities, businesses and environment can respond positively to the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate.

Initial workshops were held in June 2015, where representatives of varying sectors of the community, including Local Government, considered how the region might be vulnerable to a changing climate. Participants considered how values, aspects or features of the Limestone Coast region might be impacted by a warmer and drier climate, increased heat waves and frequency of bush fires, reduced rainfall and groundwater recharge, rising sea levels and greater storm surges expected in coming years. These first workshops focused on identification of sectors that are most

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at risk from climate change, with follow up meetings on the 14th and 15th of September looking at adaptation planning for those areas. A regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan will now be produced based on the results of those workshops.

RDA National Forum

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development hosted a National Forum in Canberra on the 19th and 20th August 2015, with Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Chief Executive Officers of the 55 RDAs across Australia invited to attend.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development the Hon Warren Truss provided the opening address, outlining his vision for a vibrant regional Australia and the expectations of RDAs to develop and implement practical strategies and partnerships to grow and strengthen their regions.

As well as being an opportunity for the RDAs to share knowledge and experience across the network, there was a strong focus on establishing and strengthening partnerships and building business cases to secure private and public funding, particularly how to utilise data to build these successful business cases.

Limestone Coast Economic Development Group (LCEDG)

RDALC is an important contributor to the Limestone Coast Economic Diversification Group, which has now changed its name to Limestone Coast Economic **Development** Group, to better articulate its role and purpose.

Following the review of current projects, a 2015/16 work plan was developed around the following key areas:

- Clusters and value chains
- Innovation hub
- Mobilising regional leaders
- Investor and Export ready
- Tourism
- Infrastructure, and
- Workforce attraction and retention

A key focus over the first 6 months will be on developing some regional protocols to support inbound and outbound delegations (RDALC to take a lead role); developing a regional prospectus document highlighting investment and export/new market opportunities (RDALC to take a lead role); and identifying infrastructure needs across the region, the impacts of not addressing them and priorities for funding.

Mike Ryan

KEITH BASED TIMBER BUSINESS IS INDUSTRY LEADER

A recent visit by RDA Limestone Coast to the Keith Timber Group was a real eye opener for Board members of the regional development body.

Keith Timber started life as a small rural hardware store in 1945, but is now one of the leading prefabricated timber roof truss, wall frame and floor truss manufacturers in Australia. The company supplies these units to all parts of South Australia and also into the Victorian market.

They have contracts with some of the biggest house building companies in Adelaide.

They also operate hardware stores in Murray Bridge, Naracoorte and of course, Keith, with a specialist timber “picking & packing” yard at Edinburgh to supply the Adelaide building trade with custom bundles of timber to suit a specific job.

The company now employs over 100 staff across its operations, including drivers for their own fleet of crane equipped delivery trucks.

The 20,000 square metre “state of the art” truss manufacturing plant at the Keith Industrial Estate uses the latest computer and industrial technology sourced worldwide, to produce trusses to exact engineering specifications.

Keith Timber Group Managing Director, Michael Read spends many hours working out how to tweak the production systems and plant layout to optimise output, efficiency and safety.

He’s keen to expand the business as the building industry adopts more prefabricated modules instead of hand assembling on-site. That means more local jobs.

However, according to Mr Read “One of our biggest issues is attracting and keeping good workers in Keith. We’d love to see a program to provide very low rental housing here as part of a short term attraction package, so workers from the city can get a taste of just how good it is to live & work in the country.”

RDA Limestone Coast in conjunction with local government bodies, is keen to help out and is already looking at an “attraction & retention” package for the Tatiara.

According to RDALC Chair, Richard Vickery, “Keith Timber is an outstanding example of an innovative local business successfully competing at the national level. They demonstrate that a leading edge business can compete on the big stage while based in a supportive smaller regional community.”

BUSINESS GETS BOOST IN LIMESTONE COAST

RDA Limestone Coast’s Manager of Economic & Business

Development, Barbara Lightburn is kicking some important goals for local enterprises.

Since starting in the position in November 2014, Barbara has established strong links with key business groups and government agencies in the region.

She has a strong background in regional development, having previously been employed as Manager of Business Investment and Job Creation with RDA Barossa.

She has now developed a regular online newsletter highlighting opportunities and ideas for local operators and has created & delivered workshops on digital strategies for small businesses. She sees this as a critical move for any modern business, as consumers increasingly use the internet to make purchasing decisions.

“In the modern business world you must have a strong digital strategy integrated into your business plan” said Ms Lightburn. “That plan should cover product or service delivery, financial management and marketing. The digital age is here and now. Potentially every market is now global, which brings new threats but also new opportunities. It no longer matters that you operate in regional Australia.”

In future she will also be working closely with Bruce Rodda, the new Manager Investment Attraction & Economic Development who is leaving his role as Regional Export Advisor and will shortly commence with RDA Limestone Coast.

As part of her passion for local food and wine, Barbara is also heading the committee organising the Mount Gambier “Fork & Cork Festival” to be held in February 2016.

Other recent activities on her busy calendar include helping judge the annual Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce business awards, delivering a presentation to the Governor’s Leadership Foundation, and attending national conferences on “Food & Agribusiness Clusters” and “Future Proofing Australia”.

Barbara is a key player in the Limestone Coast Collaborative group and also ran a workshop to help the local Crisis Centre Working Party formulate a strategy to combat the drug ICE.

Barbara is keen to have local business people contact her regarding training, mentoring and information sharing opportunities. “While young people really integrate digital thinking into their lives, it’s the current business owners who have the experience and skills to make it work in the complex world of commerce. I’m keen to help them make that transition.”



LIFT- OFF FOR FIRST NBN SATELLITE

One Giant Leap towards better broadband for regional and remote Australia.

nbn successfully launched its first broadband satellite into orbit on the 15th of October 2015.

Blasting 36,000kms into space from Guiana Space Centre in South America, *Sky Muster*, is one of the world's most-advanced communication satellites and will play a critical role in delivering fast broadband to more than 200,000 Australian homes and businesses.

Over the coming months the satellite will undergo final technical testing ahead of its commercial launch scheduled for mid-2016. Once available, the service is expected to provide wholesale speeds significantly faster than those currently used now.

nbn CEO Bill Morrow said the satellite will provide access to fast broadband for the parts of Australia that need it most.

"With the launch of Sky Muster, we're one step closer to changing the digital face of our nation."

"The ability to video-conference friends and family, study courses online and visit doctors from your lounge room will all be possible in areas which have traditionally struggled to access basic internet services like online banking and shopping."

"Many homes and businesses in regional and rural Australia still rely on dial-up level speeds and have little or no access to a commercial broadband service - this satellite will help to close the divide and ensure no-one gets left behind."



Based 400km outside of Alice Springs and a student of School of the Air, six-year-old Bailey Brooks won the opportunity to name the satellite through a nationwide nbn drawing competition which invited children to illustrate how the nbn network will help make Australia a better country.

Bailey, with her remote classmates, names the satellite Sky Muster to refer to how the satellite will 'round up' and help connect Australians together. Her winning artwork was printed on the side of the rocket that launched Sky Muster into orbit and she was in Sydney to celebrate.

"I was excited when I watched the rocket go into space. The satellite will help my school friends and I talk to each other and our teachers from our computers," said Bailey Brooks.

STAND LIKE STONE FOUNDATION

Stand Like Stone Foundation are seeking input from the Limestone Coast community to assist with strategic planning, We have been asked by the foundation to promote their Community Consultation Survey as per request below.

"Please complete the Stand Like Stone community consultation survey to assist us with our strategic planning. Your responses will assist us with determining our priorities and it should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Your input is very important to us and we greatly appreciate you taking the time to consider these questions"

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZH2G2Q2>



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