

BRIEFING NOTE

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC
From: RDA Murray NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes - DRD-CEO
Information Source: RDA Murray and MSEAT
Date: Friday 29 May 2020

Movement of Murray Region into the recovery phase of the response to COVID-19.

Planning for the recovery phase and what this looks like.

Regionally Strategic, Recovery Projects Priority List

1. PS Australia Star cruising paddle steamer \$2.5 million plus associated wharf infrastructure investment 13 direct and 33 indirect jobs. Ready to start
2. Murray River Adventure Trail \$2-\$3 million of \$12.8M (multi jurisdiction, well planned and supported) Current Stage ready to go in Oct total project 71 jobs
3. Barooga Golf Club Indoor Driving Range development \$1.2 million. 17 jobs ready to start project
4. Howlong Industrial Park substation \$850,000 additional required to optimise activation of \$15M public - private investment resulting in 100 new jobs, evidence of delivering previously (broader project underway)
5. Echuca Moama Bridge Arts Project \$6.9 million Gallery stage of \$25.7M total 51 construction, 9.5 direct and 22 indirect jobs ongoing
 - a. Meninya Street upgrade (master plan done)

Ongoing work to prioritise Local Government and other projects to establish a segmented list to target investment markets eg short, medium and longer term; <\$1M, \$1-5M, \$5-50M and >\$50M.

Positive: Collaborative teamwork across three levels of government and regional organisations reducing duplication and optimising responses and solutions on the ground.

How recovery can be effectively implemented.

S1. Business Development and Adaptation

Continue working with our Business NSW region, Chambers, private Consultants, BEC, DPI Resilience and Rural Financial Counsellors to streamline business access to advice

S2. Workforce Development and Population Growth

Partnership between multicultural services in Albury Wodonga to address migrant issues eg visas expiring and matching people to skills vacancies

Youth employment, Aboriginal and Women in the workforce; focus on building micro businesses and entrepreneurial ventures.



S4. Contemporary Governance

Regional Leadership collective – Murray Socio Economic Activation Taskforce MSEAT

Research: Explore ICU beds per population by region as this was quoted as a reason for maintaining a state wide re-opening strategy eg, Murray-Riverina Region has higher than national average ICU beds per population National 9.4 beds per 100,000

S3. Network Development

RDA Murray, DRNSW, MRT, RAMJO collected Tourism, commercial and Local Government projects

MSEAT agreed to collectively support a range of private public partnership projects that are ready to go, deliver jobs and fit well in a regional strategic sense.

Other network work includes; Mental Health and youth employment, job readiness, Skilled Migrants to fill small – medium business vacancies

1. What support may be needed.

Concerted implementation of local procurement to include source product not just local ownership of the supplying business

Investment in Regional collaboration to maintain degree of multi-level responsiveness and high level of support required to respond to COVID19 Recovery on top of BAU

Attention on energy competitiveness – local advantage from renewable power production
Delivery of business advice

You may still wish to broadly cover business confidence across your region and the ongoing effectiveness of government interventions.

Uncertainty impacting planning,

Sept cliff predicted

Lower capacity LGAs although celebrating bringing forward of funding for infrastructure projects may require additional core capability to make the most of the current opportunity

Positive Stories:

Banking sector feedback positive w Ag sector leading and less impact observed in manufacturing

Actual job losses and income reductions less than expected across some sectors eg car dealerships, at this stage. Owners continuing to expect unpredicted impact

Edwina Hayes Ph: 0427267753

29 May 2020

