

BRIEFING NOTE

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC
From: RDA Murray, NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes – Director Regional Development and CEO, RDA Murray
Information Source: RDA Murray Network and MSEAT
Date: Wednesday 30 Sept 2020

Federal Budget outcomes have been welcomed and expected to make a significant impact in our region.

NSW Bushfire Industry Recovery Package overlooks Red Meat sector in the Upper Murray. NSW Agriculture Bushfire Recovery Plan covers– Dairy, Apiculture, Aquaculture and Viticulture. Softwoods have also seen sector wide recovery support. Survey results from Upper Murray Red Meat producers demonstrate sector-wide losses and stimulus needs. **A Red Meat Industry Sector Package in the order of \$70-80M would see red meat producers able to restock, renovate pastures and re build infrastructure lost during 2019-20 Bushfire Season. Representing a great opportunity to drive economic recovery in communities driven by red meat production.**

Round 2 of Regional Recovery Activation well underway with Councils and private/commercial investors on the front foot as Murray NSW-VIC Border Closure restrictions continue to ease. **Region is primed for Vic-NSW cooperative Cross Border harmonisation, simplification and investment. Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal poised to make the most of this readiness**

MDBA Chair, Sir Angus Houston toured Murrumbidgee and Murray raised hopefulness for changes in economic drivers such as irrigation communities being provided with more certainty.

Looking forward to BBRF Rd 5 to generate competitive applications by coordinating regional priorities amongst the groups and support strong, well written applications from the Murray River. RDA Murray working with Destination Riverina Murray and Murray Regional Tourism to coordinate, aggregate and prioritise.

Commendation to Albury City Council collaborating with Charles Sturt University to provide local scholarships keeping regional talent in the region and bolstering the professional workforce pipeline.

Tourism and Hospitality Sector require additional assistance to rebuild Murray visitation. Key solutions are investment in a more concerted cross-border, collaborative NSW and VIC Gov approach considering the region's historical reliance on Melbourne visitation.

RDA Murray focussed on

- Small Business Month – business financial health/solvency assessments,
- Workforce Development -decentralisation and connecting JobSeekers with employers,
- Digital Connectivity
- Regional prioritisation and coordination of infrastructure projects/programs engaging LGAs in InfraCollab PIPE and
- mental health programs, esp small business.



MSEAT focus turning to recovery project delivery needs and resourcing eg.

- Build border business and community confidence and certainty
- Engage investment/spending in re-igniting border tourism and small business
- Deliver infrastructure projects on budget and on time
- Engage economic drivers leveraging post COVID boom behaviours

Edwina Hayes Ph: 0427 267 753

