

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 and Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce (MSEAT)
Date: Wednesday 9 Sept 2020

Murray NSW-VIC Border Closure significant positive developments with NSW Gov focussing on steps to reduce impacts to more people and businesses and projecting less restrictions as health markers are met in VIC. Border developments towards recovery rely on NSW Gov satisfaction with VIC Gov response. Collecting evidence of discrete, positive, possibilities seems the most effective way to influence this.

Community sentiment is that VIC regional road map continues to disadvantage border regions economically while not being adequately policed to protect. NSW Premier and Deputy Premier visits to Albury received well and subsequent EPHO adjustments buoyed sentiment in businesses other than retail, hospitality and tourism.

Federal support for Agricultural agreements has been very well received. Thankyou, we are grateful for the efforts of the Team raising issues affecting many of our contractors and agribusinesses

RDA Murray working through MSEAT to gather locally collected data and priorities from community to feed into NSW Gov Southern Border Recovery Committee to inform high level policy decision making

This week's additional Border Closure Impacts advice is

- 1. Agriculture Permit needs review immediately – to reflect advice from Federal Gov**
- 2. NSW Border Business Grant needs bands to adjust eligibility minimum turnover and % of revenue loss adjustments due to initial rebound phase in June and projected losses as a result of border closure Jul-Sept Q3**

Recovery compassionate and optimistic response to recovery all round including insolvency and jobseeking. Exploring expected impacts of polarising economies potentially impacting smaller Corporates and

Looking at some really large regional players projecting changes

Hyne Timber campaigning in the face of Bushfire affected supply challenges being impacted with Chinese changes in softwoods and timber trade

Rivalea fully integrated pork producer for sale by QAF

Connecting people to jobs through our relationships with employers and community based groups. Numbers are small but having a ripple effect in multicultural communities

RDA Murray are developing a survey in collaboration with other regional groups. We will include some mid-term RDA stakeholder feedback for End of Contract Report, repeat Business border closure/COVID impact data collection, banking relationships, mental health and general economic and social indicators. Timeframe is to survey Oct with results for Nov AGM and Dec Reporting.



Insolvency policy development advice cont. with Attorney Generals Department and Treasury
thankyou to the team for the connections.

Extension of moratorium welcomed. Closing with dignity is critical and this work is additional to working with BEC ASABAS and RFCS advisors to raise awareness of insolvency and business practices.

issues affecting Corporate and SMEs

- zombie traders' employment. Legal and financial impacts are pushed back to Christmas
- Corporate Boards may see an eventual decline in capable Directors from SME base
- SMEs bankruptcy through no fault of their own need ways to continue earning in an SME dominated economy
- Follow on impact in community, faith and sporting clubs etc access to Directors and Committee Members may be impacted as businesses are bankrupt rather than being able to trade out of COVID dependent situations

Community sentiment; Ag community highly frustrated and upset as new NSW order did not deliver promised relief for contractors nor NSW Farmers not allowed to visit properties. Uptick of hopefulness with Deputy Premier Barilaro visiting Albury to consult and witness. Polarised response to Premier Berejiklian visiting Border with many feeling excluded from process/opportunity.

RDA Murray focussed on improving digital connectivity to drive Ag value adding through improved IoT access and decentralisation opportunity with more and better quality Internet access in high pop growth areas. Businesses need internet to move to the bush.

Workforce immediate needs in Ag sector and local government infrastructure project delivery

NT is a shining light bringing pickers, packers in encouraging unique solutions to address these complex problems eg Sunraysia and Upper Murray harvest shortage being projected to cost growers. We will continue to engage Health Minister Hazzard in possible solutions. Looking forward to RDA Riverina led collective work.

Noticing a decentralisation of people driving small numbers of SESR 494 Visa applications

Regional Deal local input is progressing effectively

Avian Flu serious response and alert in mid-Murray being monitored very closely.

Welcome Water announcements

Recovery projects building capacity for high needs areas to engage and address recovery needs is require dnow to encure Murray Region is well prepared and ready to make the most of opportunitites.

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