

## BRIEFING NOTES FOR National RDA Regional Updates Teleconference 10/03/2020

**To:** The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC  
**From:** RDA Murray, NSW  
**Submitted by:** Edwina Hayes – Director Regional Development and CEO  
**Information Source:** RDA Murray Network  
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Evidence of border community resilience; partnerships, self-help investment and appetite for rebuilding with 18 applications received. I acknowledge the support of AusIndustry to prioritise regionally and support organisations in their process. Our joint webinar and advice from 28 January is available <https://www.rdamurray.org.au/grants/building-better-regions-bbrf-round-5/>

Committee Recruitment excellent quantity and quality of applications received with improvements in diversity achieved. Panel will be processing in coming weeks.

### Investment Jobs and Local Procurement

Recovery constraints being addressed

- Housing and Industrial land development crunch – working with planners, RE Agents, Developers, builders and trades flat out trying to meet demand right along the border (workforce and supplies issues being resolved as they arise)
- Residential housing squeeze with sales and rental markets spiking -working with MasterBuilder's, Local Government and State Planning to optimise communication and support strategy development and activation
- Industrial and Business land being planned and opened Eg ERC Deniliquin Seniors Living Precinct proposal 37 EOIs to purchase homes

Coordinated Strategic Tourism and Hospitality recovery is primed after Minister Tehan's advice in the RDAs Tele-TownHall and the Victorian long weekend producing capacity bookings across the region. This rebound effect presents an outstanding opportunity to redress Border Closure impacts

- Golf On The Murray collaborative and strategic rebuild Program with terrific plans for Public-Private partnerships for marketing and promotion into domestic market, infrastructure and events programs
- Trentham Cliffs Caravan Park development using a public-private partnership proposal to rebuild former site and provide much needed accommodation and retail anchors for the Wentworth Shire community. This fits with Corowa Ball Park Caravan Park Development and workforce housing pressure in both regions.
- Albury Entertainment Centre Convention Wing, Moama Bridge Art Project, Wentworth Convention area combine to improve the business event visitor economy along the Murray river

Workforce development

-Skilled Migration 491 uptake is stronger than expected with evidence of more decentralised migrants seeking regional sponsorship. People have moved to the region taking up casual jobs.



We are encouraging employers to juggle and commit to 12 month, full-time tenure to keep these people in the region.

-TAFE trades and apprenticeships, training enrolments are strong continuing to explore why Tourism and Hospitality sector weaker enrolments including optimistic and positive publicity and communications campaign to address Mum and Dad perceptions and promote the security of the sector

-University Sector reform continues to address internal restructure and COVID impacts

-Work with ICN to improve local interaction and benefit from Snowy 2.0, Inland Rail and TransGrid State Interconnector Projects

-Support implementation of Aboriginal employment and procurement recommendations for local project and BAU ordering opportunities across local, state and federal fields.

### Improving awareness and connection between Murray Region and Aus Gov

- Supporting outstanding stimulus investment opportunities
  - Golf on the Murray
  - Murray Irrigation Infrastructure and Environmental Watering Projects
  - Wentworth Council redevelopment
- Collecting evidence to address workforce critical needs eg MacFab in Albury reported Production line fabricators shortages increased x5 since last year
- Inland Rail section Consultative Committee participation/representation
- IWD events and programs. I facilitated a Tumbarumba event where Bushfire Recovery support was gratefully acknowledged
- Bushfire Environmental Recovery grants announced and acknowledged in the Upper Murray
- +++comms of grants and opportunities etc

### Coordinating Regional Strategy

- Fast paced network development and collaboration across all sectors to address constraints and drive economic development. Focus on Network engagement and collaboration (Local, State and Federal, Cross Border and intersectoral) to address recovery constraints. We acknowledge Murray NSW border region has experienced a unique, extreme effect with common economic impacts from National and State public health orders and universal constraints affecting recovery being compounded repeatedly by State Border Closures in 2020 and 2021. (This effect seems to be masked by agricultural economic performance in public and private data from the region)
- Committee recruitment
- Regional Strategic Planning methodology
- BBRF 5 making the most of the ideas generated inviting partnerships and investment
- following up a report that workforce shortages and reduction in access to International Markets may cause significant citrus and horticultural production waste in the Sunraysia Lower Darling areas. Connecting with AusIndustry and Export

### Actions from Teleconference

Update Migration PMSOL needs form Murray with NSW Treasury and DoHA.

Find out large infrastructure project pipeline in the region

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