

## BRIEFING NOTES for National RDA Regional Updates Teleconference 12/05/2021

**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 incl Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce  
**Date:** 12 May 2021

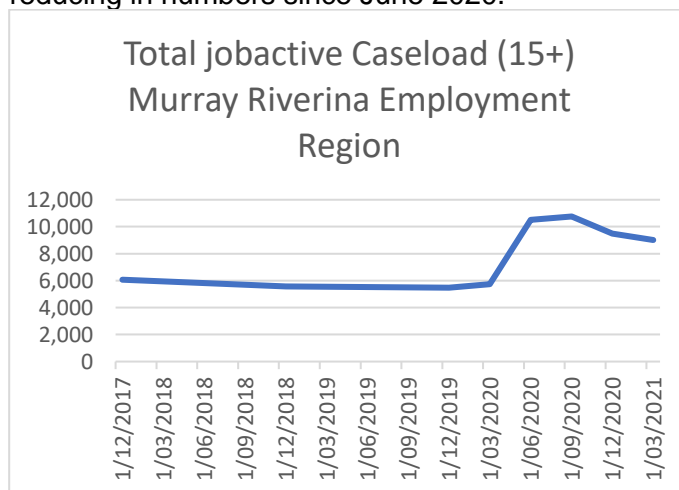
RDA Murray is very excited about the 2021-2022 Budget with some brilliant new opportunities to build on in the Murray Region. We are in a great position to optimise the investments in BBRF, Digital Inclusivity, Aged Care, Mental Health and Womens safety and economic participation and Child Care with our Committee and MSEAT regional leaders group providing leadership and coordinated priorities across the region.

An important observation from our regional leaders has been that the complex constraints impacting filling jobs are non-linear. MSEAT and the RDA Murray Board discussed the nature of the current constraints and concluded that it was different to past situations. Historically, solutions to economic constraints have been sequential but post Border Closure our solutions need to be activated simultaneously to address the melee of cyclical and interdependent issues.

**DESE** – Advertised vacancies are up about 20% to 2,119 since last month<sup>1</sup>

RDA Murray Region, and at least four neighbouring RDA regions, are in the lowest 20% of SA4 based Employment Regions by Unemployment rate.<sup>2</sup>

Of the 9,006 Job Active Caseload; 1,010 are male 24-50yo, half are female, a little over a quarter are over 50yo and a little under a quarter are People with a Disability. All sub sections are reducing in numbers since June 2020.



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/regional-jobs-vacancy-map/> accessed 12/5/2021

<sup>2</sup> The unemployment rate and unemployed statistics are ABS Labour Force Survey, 12 month averages of original data, March 2021. The jobactive data are Department of Education, Skills and Employment administrative data, March 2021.



RDA Murray is working with Uni, TAFE, schools, NSW Training Services, DESE, Multicultural Sector Agencies and NFPs, Job Actives, Labour Hire and industry to connect people with jobs.

**DoHA Immigration** - RDA Murray is responding to industry and community input and Budget 2021-2022 announcements providing advice to DoHA Immigration to **Review Regional Migration VISA conditions to include onshore migrants who want to move to regions**. This would fill skilled and other labour shortages and drive regionalisation of people from congested, higher unemployment areas moving to regions with jobs and welcoming communities.

**Communications** – Digital Connectivity – RDA Murray is tracking the **launch of Starlink in our region** with promises of double internet speeds and significant satellite quality improvements RDA Murray sees this will enable more capacity to activate the Digital Economy Strategy in our region.

**Infrastructure** – COVID Stimulus impacts - Master Builders report being in a better position to achieve HomeBuilder grant milestones since the extension and some easing of a number of constraints such supply and workforce.

- Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal anticipation for progress is high
- Nationally Significant Project input continues with Snowy 2.0, TransGrid Secure Energy and Inland Rail.

#### **Investment, Jobs and Local Procurement**

RDA Murray is inviting investment in **relocatable, Temporary Housing** for seasonal workforce and projects to engage investors in our region. There are apple pickers camping rough in the Snowy Valleys Council Bushfire affected area and on-farm accommodation in the Euston area has been full since Jan 2020. Renewable energy development, primary industry processing, forestry and seasonal work across the region are being constrained by accommodation and lack of available workforce.

RDA Murray are developing multifaceted approaches to targeting Sydney and Melbourne outer suburban population to consider moving to the region. Working with partners in public and private sectors to improve online visibility and scope of opportunities to move to the region and take up jobs.

#### RDA Activity Summary

- +++Migrant settlement support and Visa queries are high
- TAFE trades and apprenticeships, training enrolments are strong
- University Sector reform continues to address internal restructure and COVID impacts with strong strategic planning
- Work with ICN to improve local interaction and benefit from Snowy 2.0, Inland Rail and TransGrid Projects
- Rice Vesting review in out
- Industry consultations to inform focus for activity including manufacturing and construction Infrastructure Australia regional consultation conducted on Monday with private, public and
- Support implementation of Aboriginal employment and procurement recommendations for local project and BAU ordering opportunities across local, state and federal fields.
- UTS Engineering Student internships connection made



### **Coordinating Regional Strategy**

RDA Murray provided support, consultation and advice to the following **regional strategic planning processes** in the last month

1. Aus Gov Joint Standing Committee on Migration
2. RDA Murray co-hosted Infrastructure Australia 2021 regional consultation
3. NSW Regional Strategic Planning 5 year review for Riverina-Murray and Western Regions 2036
4. Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils Regional Strategic Plan
5. Riverina and Murray and Western Joint Organisation of Councils RSP
6. CSU University Strategic Planning

Upcoming contributions include

Aus Gov Inquiry into Regional Australia

Western NSW Demand for Worker Accommodation Strategy for NSW Planning

Edwina Hayes 0427267753

