

# Murray Socio Economic Activation Taskforce

## Terms of Reference November 2020

### **Purpose**

The Murray Economic Recovery Leadership Group (the Group) will lead advice and cooperation on regional priorities to support economic recovery in the Murray Region of southern NSW.

The purpose of the Group is to bring together key regional stakeholders to drive local initiatives aimed at stimulating business and private investment, maintaining and creating jobs and helping businesses and organisations bounce back from the effects of the economic crisis.

### **The objectives are:**

1. Improve economic recovery in the region through collective interaction. Sharing evidence to improve job and business growth strategies, strategically address workforce issues and advance local procurement strategies.
  - Increase the number of people in jobs in the region
  - Increase investment in capital, businesses and infrastructure in the region
  - Increase the level of procurement from businesses in the region
  - Optimise alignment between Australian, NSW and Local Government economic development strategies and activity in the region.

### **Activities may Include:**

- Consolidate links and information from business associations (Chambers, retail associations, Industry groups, etc) and government departments specifically focused on border economic recovery
- Identify businesses in the Murray region with job vacancies and link with job seekers
- Use evidence from business conditions survey results (Business NSW) and other data sources to identify training/information support that can be provided to Murray border economic recovery
- Share available data and resources where possible to avoid duplication of services (bearing in mind the data and privacy policies of each organisation)
- Develop strategy to collectively advocate for State and Federal investment in key infrastructure projects in the region

### **What it won't do – Out of Scope**

- Replicate or interfere with immediate and crisis response management by governments and front-line institutions (i.e. Health, education, community services). The focus will largely be on informing longer-term recovery, providing over-the-horizon focus that front-line responders will not have the capacity for right now.

- Lead or own the response - it will be advisory, drawing insight from across sectors at a regional scale and providing a platform that leads the coordination of a regional response, tracks progress, identifies gaps and ensures collective focus and delivery.
- The Group should not endorse any specific company or community group. However, it is deemed appropriate if a call-out is made to the general local business community to submit their success stories
- Specific businesses can be named only if they are providing generic information to assist businesses and have contributed their time free of charge
- The Group does not have the resources to create and manage community message boards
- The Group does not offer advice to any business. It is only relaying information already available to the business community
- The Group does not express opinions of its' members

### **Issues and risks**

- There is a lot of thinking and activity around COVID-19 response and recovery. Consultation has revealed gaps that have informed the Objectives. If we don't move quickly, we risk being crowded out, and the regional response will not be as strong, comprehensive or at scale without the focus proposed.
- Could be viewed as a 'talk-fest'. To address, the agenda will focus on tangible initiatives and outcomes, and have these communicated directly to decision makers rather than remaining as advice internal to the region.
- Coordination with other initiatives and governance. This will be addressed by broad and inclusive membership on the Group. Members will need to demonstrate they are working in an agile way across their sector and bringing consolidated views to the table. Consultation has revealed a real need and value in coordination across sectors and the region that will not be achieved through a siloed sector or district approach. The Group has an opportunity to help coordination, provide focus and cut-through - not add to the noise.
- Without the Group, decisions could be made with less buy-in and local input resulting in less uptake and impact of measures to stimulate Murray border economic recovery

### **3. Membership, Voting and Quorum.**

#### *Membership*

The Murray Economic Recovery Leadership Group is a regional Group to support stakeholders in Murray border economic recovery to businesses and organisations with local initiatives aimed at stimulating business and private investment, maintaining and creating jobs and helping businesses bounce back from the effects of the economic crisis.

Membership includes:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • RDA Murray   | • RAMJO, CRJO, FWJO, REROC/JO |
| • Elected MPs or their delegates                                 | • Local Councils              |
| • DISER Aus Industry   | • BusinessNSW                 |
| • DITRDC   | • Australian Industry Group   |
| • NSW government – Department of Regional NSW, Training Services | • BEC SW Advice               |
| NSW, Housing   | • TAFE                        |

- Community Organisations, ACOSS,
- Murray LLS
- MIL
- RGA
- Finance rep (Deniliquin)
- MRT
- DRM
- SWArts
- RMRA
- Youth/Employment Agency
- University CSU
- NBNC0

- Subject matter experts will be asked to support the taskforce on an ad hoc basis

#### *Chairperson*

The Chairperson is to have precedence at the meeting and shall determine the order of proceedings, generally as set out in the Agenda.

#### *Voting*

No formal voting rules apply.

The Group recommendations are to be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be taken at the request of the Chairperson. The vote will be carried by a majority of those present. The meeting record would reflect this process.

The Group may agree to allow participation in meetings through conference calls and other technology. As no formal voting rules apply, there is no proxy voting.

#### *Quorum*

The Chairperson shall use their discretion to determine if a meeting should be postponed due to insufficient members being able to attend.

### **4. Meetings - Operations**

- Meetings are to be held as determined by the Group
- The Chairperson has the authority to call additional meetings
- The agenda, minutes and actions will be distributed to members on an ongoing basis using an electronic platform
- Meetings will be recorded by the taking of minutes (meeting record) – the minutes will document agreed actions/outcomes and will not record discussions.

### **5. Communications and reporting**

Chair and Secretariat support to be provided by RDA Murray.

*Premises, technology and research support hosted by research institute, perhaps university aligned (as required).*

Papers distributed 1 week prior to meeting

Record of meeting to be distributed within 1 week to the Group

Outcomes reported to Local, NSW and Australian Government representatives

Public communique issued after each meeting

### **6. Conduct**

Each member of the taskforce will abide by the Code of Conduct of their organisation.

For the avoidance of doubt, members of the Group are not permitted to speak to the media or make representations on social media on behalf of the taskforce unless approved by the Group

### **7. Review**

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed six monthly or as required by the Group. Review of ToR will involve a brief evaluation of effectiveness of prior period