

BRIEFING NOTES for National RDA Regional Updates Videoconference 11/08/2021

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC
From: RDA Murray, NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes – Director Regional Development and CEO
Information Source: Board and Organisational Network incl Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce
Date: 11 August 2021

1. Economic Development

Investment

In response to Murray Regional Tourism COVID -19 RESTRICTIONS ECONOMIC IMPACT ESTIMATE (attached) evidence from the border, RDA Murray is in the initial stages of engaging local stakeholders to develop a case for nationally significant, internationally scaled **Murray Mountains to Mouth Multimodal Pilgrimage Trail Prospectus**. We are hoping to engage all RDAs along the Murray to test this idea robustly.

Collaborating with Tourism and Business peak bodies to provide evidence of COVID -19 restriction related trends and predicted impacts to consider eg global patterns of natives avoiding low skilled low paid essential services and hospitality sector.

General COVID impact response has digressed to reminding and raising awareness of solvency and **insolvency trigger points** with local tourism and hospitality businesses and peak bodies

Planning workshops in partnership with RSM to encourage Business Development for investment preparedness specially to develop agrisector manufacturing add ons and export opportunities.

Creating Jobs

Exploring global trends for natives avoiding low pay and status jobs such hospitality and unskilled services. Particularly how we leverage local competitive advantage of Victorian metro perception of safer, freer lifestyle on the NSW Murray.

Population movements particularly skilled migrants chasing pathways to permanent residency are positive for the region filling job vacancies especially in health and aged care.

We are discussing a campaign to attract grey nomads, people motivated by environmental issues avoiding waste and JobSeekers to add to seasonal workforce strategies by Aus Gov and NSW Gov and Local Govs. A 'Land Army' style call to action to avoid waste, and help out in a crisis.

CENSUS did advise they were unable to fill jobs in our region to distribute forms and consequently extensions are in place.

Local Procurement



Would like to raise awareness through RIBs to remind Departments they can greatly impact regions by including **specifically designed procurement, sub contract and employment criteria and accountability in contracts** eg.

- Avoiding Single use plastics in nationally significant projects – 90,000 recycled water bottles in the Snowy Mountains
- Requiring regional procurement first eg RDA Hume example of Med Con masks from Shepparton
- Employment diversity targets applied vertically, including Csuite, as well as at the entry level

2. Promote Greater regional awareness of Aus Gov

Socials and traditional communication this month focussed on **NSW and VIC rules and regulations, vaccination, CENSUS and assistance to fill in forms.**

CENSUS advised that due to being unable to fill jobs they had not delivered forms across the region and extensions were in place. We have shared the extension advice widely

RDA Murray hosted a **DESE Local Jobs Program webinar** to engage industry and EDOs in Aus Gov opportunities including NPF, Taskforce and Regional Facilitator relationships and activity. <https://www.rdamurray.org.au/index.php/grants/dese-local-jobs-program/>

3. Contribute to Commonwealth regional policy making – evidence based advice

Please encourage Federal COVID Cabinet agreements on border restriction applications to reduce political football effect.

Final Report and recommendations of the Aus Gov Parliamentary Inquiry into Skilled Migration welcomed. We appreciate DoHA new VISA products being developed to address seasonal; and other workforce shortages.

Boarding school children (especially interstate) returning home during school holidays continuing to experience unfair and unreasonable restrictions causing unnecessary distress and costs in our community. (RDA Hume, Minister McKenzie and Senator Davy are highly engaged in this issue and have detailed evidence)

Murray Regional Tourism, an exceptional cross-border peak body, released an Economic Impact Report estimating the impact of COVID on the border Tourism sector at \$2.5B expenditure loss and disrupting of 37,500 jobs. (BAU economy throughout this time would have been \$5B)

Thank you for the acknowledgement in Parliament it validated and encouraged our Board Members motivating a high level of engagement and investment in Strategic Regional Planning and input into the Ministerial Briefings.

Edwina Hayes 0427267753

