

MSEAT Regional Leadership Meeting Notes

4pm - Thursday 25 November 2021 - DRAFT

November theme: Welcoming Newcomers to our Region

Please use your update to focus on how we could or what you already have in your area that welcomes and accommodates newcomers to our region.

We are thinking workers, young people, young families, small landholders, renters, weekender folk, regional metro escapees, FIFOs / DIDOs / Temporary OS Workers / Seasonal Workers. Multicultural communities; Refugee Settlers and Skilled Migrants etc

RDA Murray Update

Edwina Hayes – RDA Murray:

- Premier Perrottet has made a call to action for skilled migrants to come into the regions.
- RDA Murray expects around seven thousand new jobs will be created in the region over the next few years. Riverina is expecting the same level,
- We are looking at multi levels of employment pathways - from engaging students, on the job training, welcoming skilled migrants and beyond.

Member Updates

Steve Donaghy – Master Builders.

- Defence base upgrades are now out for tender. With this comes a requirement for workforce, and businesses are looking at bringing workers in from other regions. This could put a strain on accommodation.
- Master Builders primary role will be collaborating with the builders to assist with licensing and training of new workers.

Graeme Kruger – Rice Growers Association

- Rice mill is back to operating 24/7. An extra five hundred workers will be needed in the coming years
- They are supporting a government initiative to improve workforce.
- Partnerships between companies and their communities is critical in ensuring success in obtaining and retaining workforce.
- RAMJO is a logical organisation to have a shared approach.
- National Farmers Federation – have been asked to identify twenty growth centres. How do we ensure the other centres outside of that twenty get benefit too?

Brett Millington – Mildura Regional Development

- Focus is just getting people. Every industry has shortages, in particular hospitality. Over 150 vacancies in hospitality.
- Targeting young people finishing school - promoting job opportunities to them.
- Seasonal workforce – promoting opportunities to provide adequate workforce. Working with RMIT and LaTrobe on this.

Edwina noted that Energy Connect will bring in the order of 200 overseas skilled workers to work on the 'special' steel and tower assembly. There is a need to build a positive culture around these workers coming into the region.

Andrew Cottrill – NBNC Co and President, Business NSW Regional Advisory Council

- NBNC Co continue to work on digital capability and inclusion of residents across regional Australia
- NBNC Co released last week a [Connecting leadership paper](#), discussing the use of technology in Ag in properties.
- Regional advisory council for NSW. There is a huge volume of projects in the pipeline- \$24b in next 5-10 years.
- Population shift is going to be significant in the region.
- Working with Snowy 2 to understand the phasing of the projects to allow start of work with TAFE NSW to build skills from within our own population.
- Welcome to Leeton - concierge for workers coming into the region and helping them to find housing etc. This model could be replicated across the region.

Deanne Armstrong – Committee for Echuca Moama and RDA Murray Board Member.

- There is a good concierge program in Shepparton that works well. Welcomes the workers and family into roles in the communities. Providing advice and connection into sports and school systems. Funded by the local council.
- Echuca-Moama have a Facebook page to open new people to EM to encourage catch ups.
- Biggest challenge is housing – new-comers are living in motels during the week and then traveling back to original location during the week. This impacts their community connections.
- Building a more Multicultural community - need to investigate this in the future. Need to have the right infrastructure and support services to do this.

ACTIONABLE COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES

- Nil

Next Meeting Thursday 25 November 2021 4pm via zoom.

Please contact Edwina 0427267753 edwina.hayes@rdamurray.org.au for further clarification or information