



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*

M U R R A Y

# Publication Guide

## INTRODUCTION

On 1 July 2010, the new Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009 came into effect, replacing the former Freedom of Information Act 1999 (NSW).

The new Act:

- creates new rights to information that are designed to meet community expectations of more open and transparent government, and
- encourages government agencies to proactively release government information.

Regional Development Australia - Murray (RDA Murray) is committed to openness with regard to government information by providing open access to information on our website [www.rdamurray.org.au](http://www.rdamurray.org.au) or by contacting RDA Murray's Office at 3/429 Swift Street Albury NSW or by phoning during business hours on 02 6058 0600.

You can find out more about your right to information and ways to access NSW government information on the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) website at [www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au).

### About Us

#### What is RDA

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a partnership between the Australian, state, territory and local governments to develop and strengthen the regional communities of Australia.

RDA is a national initiative based on building partnerships and ensuring that all governments and stakeholders are responsive to local priorities and needs. It is a conduit between government and local communities, and a provider of information. RDA committees will be strong advocates for their region and drivers of change. RDA will have a pivotal role in ensuring the long term sustainability of regional Australia.

Membership to an RDA Committee is by joint appointment by the Commonwealth and State Ministers for Regional Development.

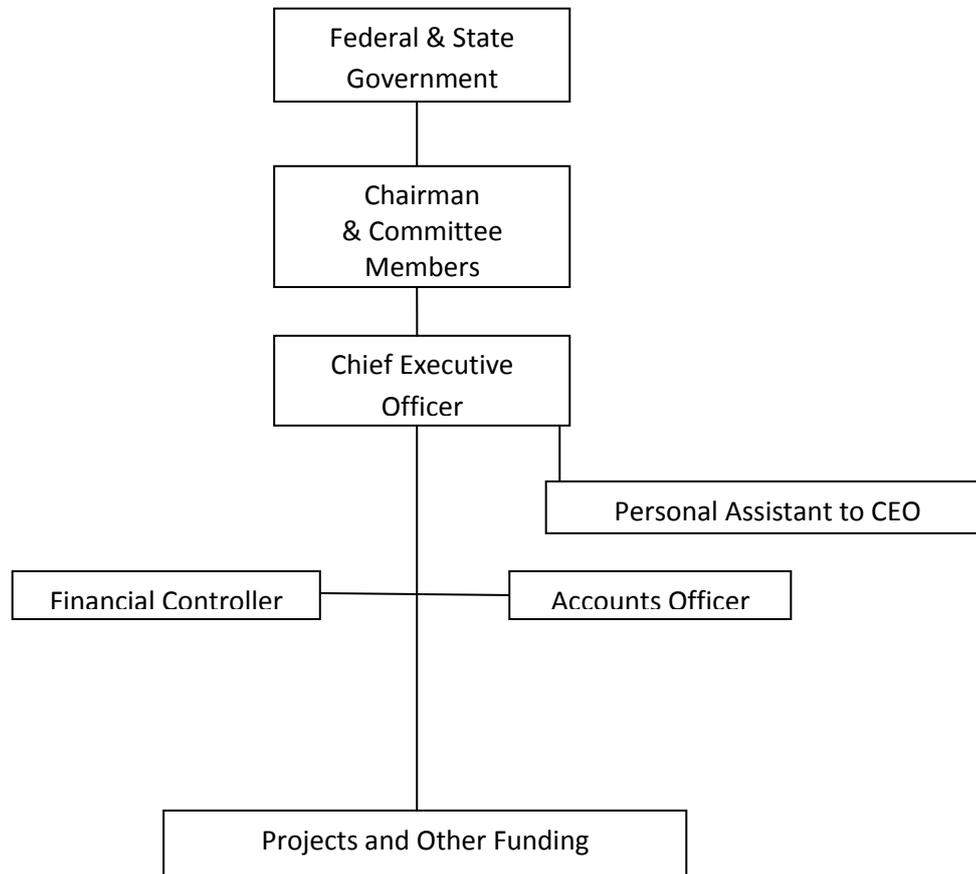
#### What is RDA Murray

RDA Murray is a non profit incorporated organisation which comprises of committed members of the region and represents the community, business and local government. RDA Murray has a broad and diverse skills base and demonstrated networks and alliances. RDA Murray is encouraged to work together on projects and other activities where there are common interests and common boundaries.

Our [Committee](#) is part of a network of 55 RDA Committees across Australia (14 in New South Wales) which were formed on 1 July 2009.

The following flow chart will show our organisational structure

### RDA Murray Organisational Structure



### **What RDA Murray does**

Regional Development Australia's Charter contains five (5) roles and responsibilities

They are:

1. *Consultation and Engagement with the Community*
2. *Informed Regional planning*
3. *Whole-of-Government Activities*
4. *Promotion of Government Programs*
5. *Community and Economic Development*

The Roles and Responsibilities in detail can be located on our website [www.rdamurray.org.au](http://www.rdamurray.org.au)

## Our Key Priorities

RDA Murray has developed eight (8) Key Priority Sectors, clustered into four (4) categories – economic, environmental, social and integration.

Key Sectors	Priorities
<b>Economic</b>	
1. <i>Industry futures</i>	Sustainable growth: existing and emerging sectors, industry clusters, market development, business attraction.
2. <i>A smart future</i>	Knowledge, skills, education/training, research and innovation, education/industry linkages, ICT - telecommuting, e-commerce, e-health, online education.
3. <i>Foundations for growth</i>	Infrastructure, roads/bridges, energy; regulation changes.
<b>Environmental</b>	
4. <i>Maintaining balance</i>	Environmental issues: water, resource management, energy, including alternative energy.
<b>Social</b>	
5. <i>Sustaining communities</i>	Resident attraction, small town development, city/town linkages, a sense of community.
6. <i>Health and wellbeing</i>	Health services, aged services, community services.
<b>Integration</b>	
7. <i>Linking the region</i>	Regional cooperation; cross border linkages, a unified voice, a regional brand.
8. <i>Providing Leadership</i>	Providing local leadership on key regional issues, developing community leaders.

## How our activities impact on the public

In working for the development of the region, our Committee consults, collaborates and, from time to time enters into more formal partnerships with local government, agencies of the Commonwealth and New South Wales government, industry, business, educational/training organisations, the community sector and individuals.

## How RDA Murray makes information available

Under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, RDA Murray must release information unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. There are four ways in which information held by RDA Murray can be accessed by the public:

- **Mandatory disclosure of open access information**  
RDA Murray will publish open access information on their website, free of charge unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

- **Proactive release**  
RDA Murray will proactively release as much government information as possible free of charge (or at the lowest reasonable cost).
- **Informal release**  
RDA Murray will release information in response to a request without the need for a formal application, unless there are good reasons to require one.
- **Formal access application**  
In limited circumstances, access to information will require a formal access application.

### **Nature of Documents held by RDA Murray**

The following documents are held by RDA Murray

#### **1. Publications**

- [Regional plan](#)
- [Annual report](#)
- [Newsletter](#)

All these publications can be located on our website [www.rdamurray.org.au](http://www.rdamurray.org.au)

#### **2. Internal policy documents**

- Code of conduct
- Constitution
- Procedural Manual

### **Contracts over \$150,000**

RDA Murray is yet to engage in any contracts to the value of more than \$150,000 with private sector bodies.

As such contracts are established, RDA Murray will publish these in a register of government contracts.

### **How the public can access information from RDA Murray**

Our Committee's policy is to be transparent and accessible. The public has a right to access most of the information held by our Committee, as long as it does not infringe privacy laws or other laws or may be detrimental to any person. In most cases we publish information on our website, if not in total, in summary or lists. If you would like to access a document named in a list

- Search the RDA Murray website to see whether it is already available or
- Contact RDA Murray and ask for the information. RDA Murray will then decide whether the information you want can be released in any of the four methods mentioned earlier.

Whenever making a formal application, access to documents can be obtained by making a request in writing. You are requested to supply all relevant details and include the application fees.

Applications can be lodged in person, posted or faxed to us

By mail: RDA Murray  
P O Box 3417  
Albury NSW 2640

By telephone: 02 60 580 600  
By facsimile: 02 60 580 699

## **Charges**

### Application Fee

**Informal application** - there is no application fee for an informal application.

**Formal application** - an application fee of \$30 is payable by an applicant to RDA Murray when lodging a formal access application for government information (section 41). The application is invalid until this fee is paid.

All charges for applications can also be obtained from the OIC website [www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au)

If you would like further information, please contact the Office of the Commissioner on 1800 INFOCOM (1800 463 626) or visit their website: [www.oic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oic.nsw.gov.au)