

BRIEFING NOTE

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP - DITRDC National RDA Input Session
From: RDA Murray NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes - DRD-CEO
Information Source: Weekly Regional Leader Forum
Date: Friday 15 May 2020

What RDA Murray is doing,

- Murray Regional Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce established
With agreed early priorities to support regionally prioritised;
 1. Infrastructure projects including roads and bridges, commercial developments, private-public partnerships, Local Government and State plans including tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, arts, cultural and recreation/sport facilities.
 2. Matching Jobseekers to vacancies
 3. Addressing Water issues
- Presenting Job Matching methods Case Studies eg RDAMNC App, RDANI Facebook and RDA Murray Interagency approaches to Local Government, and Regional Leaders such as Chambers, Multicultural and Industry Groups
- Monitoring hyper-localism and community perceptions of job vacancies compared to unemployment. Noting NSW Regional Skilled Migration program is on hold and we have significant skills vacancies eg welders/machinists for agricultural machinery suppliers
- Partnering with Riverina and Murray Joint Organisations of Councils to deliver
 - Regionally coordinated infrastructure and other project prospectus
 - Economic Development training and support to ensure Recovery Planning is sound
- Communicating health and business advice from government and established and trusted sources of information.
- Supporting sharing of economic modelling for recovery and adaptations

1. What's happening on the ground?

- GP shortages in western NSW compounding health impacts; high risk area for limited capacity to respond in a health crisis.
- Continued polarising and amplification of positive and negative impacts in business and social sectors.
 - Increase in business closures
 - Adaptive businesses running at losses to position for improvement per recovery Stages eg Café-Restaurants reopening for 10pax
 - Vulnerable communities not very visible eg. Skilled migrants fearful of visas being revoked not coming forward after job losses
- 3% 2019-2020 General Security Water Allocation for NSW Murray Irrigators announced this morning
- Unemployment and permanent Business closures rising in tourism and hospitality and manufacturing sectors.



- High activity with Government information collecting, analysing and synthesis to inform Next Steps at regional level
- General community sentiment:
 - people looking to what their new normal will look like.
 - Job seeking and planning limited activity under Stage 2
 - Tension between health and economic focus noted
 - Anticipation of post restriction wave of caravan visitation from Melbourne/VIC
 - Calls for regional lifting of restrictions rather than state

2. What impact are government interventions having?

This week saw a settling of impact with few changes to responses to interventions and limited changes to interventions last week.

Welcome Bushfire Recovery Package announcements

NSW lifting of restrictions today is welcomed with some trepidation.

- JobKeeper eligibility criteria examination/review welcomed to extend reach of stimulus
- Business confidence in mid-term solvency (6-months) is unsure.
- Cross-border tension with NSW – VIC inconsistencies frustrating border communities

3. What more could be done by government or others?

- Continue information clarification and communication as policies are implemented
- Direct government information seeking, eg. Economic modelling, to be channelled through or at least include RDAs.
- Make explicit whole of Government, Commonwealth, State and Local commitment to information sharing.

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