

## BRIEFING NOTE

**To:** The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC  
**From:** RDA Murray NSW  
**Submitted by:** Edwina Hayes - DRD-CEO  
**Information Source:** RDA Murray intel gathering  
**Date:** Friday 22 May 2020

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### **Movement of Murray Region into the recovery phase of the response to COVID-19.**

#### **1. Planning for the recovery phase and what this looks like.**

Positive: Collaborative teamwork across three levels of government and regional organisations reducing duplication and optimising responses and solutions on the ground.

##### S1. Business Development and Adaptation

- Regional profile of assets and investment opportunities (Recovery Infrastructure and projects list for collective prioritisation and support to be considered 28/5/2020)
- Address understanding of Water issues in community. Respond to Keely (Identify place based priorities and collectively support greater understanding of limitations and opportunities to affect improved access to water. -phase 2 may be actioning particular strategies.)
- Bushfire Recovery in the Upper Murray
- Drought support in western sector

##### S2. Workforce Development and Population Growth

- Matching JobSeeker and employers – establish a regional database of real-time Skills and JobSeeker
- Aboriginal economic participation support through activating Aboriginal Environmental Management Feasibility Study
- Multicultural economic participation and well being MNSW project, Skilled Migration, Job matching
- Welcome newcomers including corporates and Regional Escapers
- Medical workforce in rural and remote areas, closely watching Aboriginal HGeLaht Service, Council and NSW Health collaboration for mainstream services in Wentworth

#### **2. How recovery can be effectively implemented.**

##### S4. Contemporary Governance

- Strategic partnerships with other RDAs and RDA Networks as well as local and state government agencies and regional bodies
- Support Regional Leadership collective – Murray Socio Economic Activation Taskforce MSEAT
- Collaborative EDO Forum to improve Economic Recovery Planning, collaboration across LGAs and coordinate three levels of government support
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##### S3. Network Development

- Advocacy of ideas and solutions for support and stimulus



- Significant increase in social media and media cut through including promoting opportunities to engage in support and stimulus, self help training and business development etc.
- Support AusIndustry collaborative Business Development Exchange
- Support Albury City Council COVID Recovery Committee
- Connect Murray Corporate leadership engagement with RAI RAC2031

**3. What support may be needed.**

- Investment in RDA Murray to maintain degree of multi-level responsiveness and high level of support required to respond to COVID19 Recovery on top of BAU
- Confirmation of RDA Contract with AusGov beyond Dec 2020 would build confidence in planning into next year
- Investment and expertise to raise the digital/online presence of the region
- Investment and expertise to collect better evidence of industry impacts such as mixed farming and other sectors with less peak body capacity.

**4. You may still wish to broadly cover business confidence across your region and the ongoing effectiveness of government interventions.**

Business confidence is mixed with community expecting local transmission “outbreaks” with high incidence of public behaviour and gatherings not observing social distancing advice.

Continuing Cross-Border differences in restrictions, timing, scale and enforcement strategies

**Positive Stories:**

- Young farmers are experiencing a positive outlook with low interest rates stimulating purchase of land for economies of scale and business growth
- Local Agribusiness Consultant webinars x2 on business modelling for making an offer on your neighbours booked out
- Darling River water flowed into the Murray lifting spirits
- CSU, Australia’s leading regional University, restructuring and adapting to current situation and maintaining Number 1. Online service provider status.

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