

BRIEFING NOTE

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC
From: RDA Murray NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes – Director Regional Development and CEO, RDA Murray
Information Source: RDA Murray network
Date: Wednesday 23 Sept 2020

Murray NSW-VIC Border Closure restrictions easing with positive community and business response. However **NSW border region needs to be treated as equally disadvantaged as Melbourne and VIC.**

Henty Machinery Field Days cancellation represents a loss of close to \$100M in regional economy and social connectivity that will be felt keenly over coming weeks.

Agrisector/land managers continue to wrestle with permit and exemption processes that take 5+days hamstringing contractors and farm managers from timely business processes including animal welfare, crop decision making and responsible livestock management. Boarding School students also continuing to be exceptionally impacted

Breaking news today as NSW Gov administers Code for Ag Workers to cross state borders
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/nsw-leads-way-on-agricultural-workers-code>

Concern is rising about businesses and agencies being overwhelmed with stimulus packages all being delivered simultaneously during peak agricultural season.

RDA Murray focussed on building capacity in businesses and entities to optimise regional uptake of stimulus packages and support eg

- Assisting less resourced, more isolated local Councils to deliver infrastructure projects in groups
- Promoting and encouraging use of Financial Advisors, Business Advisory services, RFCS, ATO and general advice re contemporary business monitoring planning and practices.
 - Engaging smaller businesses in contemporary business and accounting practices and applying for grants
 - Identifying and referring single family businesses for succession and business planning
 - Raising awareness amongst businesses with less than 5 employees of stimulus opportunities
 - Identifying and engaging businesses with owner-operators 60+yo in proactive business transitions
 - Engaging Clubs and community NFPs in opportunities and government



MSEAT focus turning to recovery project delivery needs and resourcing eg.

- Build border business confidence and certainty
- Create partnerships and collectives to best utilise limited project management and engineering HR.
- Identifying and mobilising private-public partnerships
- Connect training and workforce pipeline activity to jobs
- Connect JobSeekers with jobs
- Engage investment in re igniting border tourism and

RDA Murray ready to take the lead initiating and driving Recovery Projects building capacity in high needs areas, encouraging small business to grow and ensure Murray Region is well prepared and ready to make the most of the recovery phase and positive agricultural season.

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