

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 and Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce (MSEAT)
Date: Wednesday 5 August 2020

Murray border region is the most highly impacted and disadvantaged region in Australia as a result of Border Closure health orders.

Restrictions and impacts are demonstrably greater than Melbourne Stage 3 and Victorian regional lockdowns.

Estimated 4,000 people are unable to attend their workplace with recent surveying providing evidence of impacts in the border region:

- 90% businesses reported being impacted
- An average of 2.7 staff per impacted business unable to cross the border for normal work
- An average \$8,500 weekly revenue loss for impacted businesses
- Impacted businesses are being forced to reduce their staff by up to 1.8 FTE
- [retail and restaurants are reporting declines in sales of up to 60%](#)
- Tourism and accommodation including Clubs report 90-95% reduction in trade for June quarter 2020

Sources:

BusinessNSW Survey n=1195

Albury Northside Chamber of Commerce Survey n=269

Murray Regional Tourism Impact Modelling preliminary findings; 30/7/2020

Recommendation

That Murray Region LGAs be included in Commonwealth assistance packages directed at people and businesses impacted by Health Orders aimed at containing Victorian COVID outbreaks.

Bushfire Recovery area

Livestock producer survey provides evidence of significantly underestimated losses and industry impacts on the red meat sector.

Recommendation:

- **That Meat and Livestock Sector support be made available to affected producers in the Dunns Road, Green Valley Fire areas.**

Getting on with it:

- MSEAT Working Group Improving Digital Connectivity collaborating on Project proposals and coordinated, strategic work plans to address accessibility, affordability and literacy.
- Connection between Assyrian Centre in Western Sydney and Employers to promote workforce needs
- Multicultural NSW COMPACT Youth Program application development

Edwina Hayes Ph: 0427 267 753

