

BRIEFING NOTES for National RDA Regional Updates Teleconference 09/06/2021

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC
From: RDA Murray, NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes – Director Regional Development and CEO
Information Source: RDA Murray Network incl Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce
Date: 9 June 2021

1. Economic Development

Investment

RDA Murray capitalising on certainty of 5 Nationally significant Infrastructure Projects in our region for the next 20-25 years to engage private investment to build diverse offerings of residential homes- from 1BR units to 4 BR houses and temporary/relocatable accommodation “cabins/tinyhomes” that can be sold on or moved around as required.

RDA Murray focussed on raising certainty and limiting risks around longer term capital gains to stimulate private investment in land development along the border.

We are experiencing our share of the national step up in regional/rural/remote residential housing demand that is impacted by market uncertainty and risk of limited long term capital gains. We are tackling a melee of constraints from

- workers to pour concrete slabs and tradespeople to build houses,
- bushfire affected squeeze on raw products for inputs such as timber for trusses and
- COVID induced logistical interruptions and delays with manufactured products such as windows and appliances and electrical componentry.

RDA Riverina and Orana Inland Growth Housing Summit 2021 to be held in Wagga Wagga on 13 August attracting plenty of attention in Murray and cross border regional development groups.

Creating Jobs

Chair, Mary Hoodless toured western LGAs residential developments and private Tourism investment predicted to quadruple local tourism economy. Well received with many connections to state and federal agency support consolidated.

RDA Murray has supported DoHA funding for THRIVE REFUGEE ENTERPRISE, a philanthropic group assisting refugees to start or build businesses in regional areas, to roll out a pilot program Albury Wodonga.

Unemployment and rental vacancy rates are constraining economic development – RDA Murray is focussed on underemployed and decentralisation strategies connecting local communities with job vacancies and houses to outer suburban migrant communities.

NSW RDAs are working together to coordinate and collaborate on tenders and positive coordination for DESE Local Jobs Program outcomes in regional Australia. Kerry Grace, DRD RDAMNC expects to deliver a summary paper in time for the National RDA Forum next week.



2. Promote Greater regional awareness of Aus Gov

Communications connectivity and inclusion

We met with NBN Co GM and Regional Manager. We will be working together to amplify a self-assessment survey to collect and share evidence of constraints and opportunities to improve digital connectivity and inclusion in our region.

3. Contribute to Commonwealth regional policy making – evidence based advice

COVID Impacts -NSW border employees and business impacted by VIC restrictions, excluded from support

Albury-Wodonga Hotels met and discussed the VIC COVID restrictions impact on them (100% occupancy to 20-30%) and the flow on to their casual workforce where employees were started and then stood down for 2 weeks not eligible for COVID support and impacts their JobSeeker and other supports.

Upper Murray Mapping Muster

Bushfire Resilience inter-governmental leadership for coordination. RDA Murray has connected with SVC, NRRRA, Resilience NSW and cross border service providers to coordinate services in Upper Murray cross border area by facilitating a Mapping Muster

Strategic Regional Planning and Strategy

RDA Murray confirms stakeholder in kind support for Strategic Regional Planning

RDA Murray provided support, consultation and advice to the following strategic regional planning processes in the last month

- I. Aus Gov Select Committee Inquiry into Regional Australia
- II. Infrastructure Australia stakeholder consultation
- III. NSW Regional Strategic Planning review for Central West and Orana Regions Housing solutions follow up
- IV. NSW Office of Local Government Joint Organisation of Councils Evaluation
- V. Western NSW Demand for Worker Accommodation Strategy for NSW Planning
- VI. VIC Regional Economic Development cross border consultations x 3

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