An Australian Government Initiative

Regional Development *Australia*

MURRAY NSW

Annual Report on Outcomes   2022-2023

September 2023

1 RDA Murray Chair, Mary Hoodless with The Hon Kristy McBain and RDA Murray CEO/DRD Edwina Hayes at Snowy Valleys Sculpture Tour opening and TumbaTrek celebration. Feb 2023

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2 MINISTER KRISTY MCBAIN LAUNCHING THE RDA MURRAY STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLAN WITH CEO EDWINA HAYES AT HENTY MACHINERY FIELD DAYS. SEPT 2022

Summary of Key Achievements

RDA Murray provided leadership and assumed responsibility for high achievement through the region in 2022-2023 with the launch and delivery of the RDA Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022-2025, initiation of the RDA Murray 'Dare To Lead' Program and participation in The Fischer Leadership Program and Albury City Leadership and Resilience Scholarship. Modelling commitment, energy and investment in local leadership skills, knowledge and networks has improved the number of people engaged explicitly in leadership journeys and provided 'in place' local opportunities to progress what people of the region wanted.

We collected and shared intelligence in the region through Local and NSW Government relationships, industry, business and community consultation and engagement in the affairs, endeavours and celebrations of local communities throughout the year. Attracting and retaining professional workforce, Melbourne COVID lock down escapees and onshore skilled migrants addressing growing workforce shortages throughout the year has been a highlight. RDA Murray collaborated with RDA Orana, Riverina Southern Inland and Central West to build a case for and request an extension of the Orana DAMA to further enable attraction and retention of offshore migrants.

Changing social and economic post COVID patterns during 22-23 saw the focus of policy communications and strategic priorities shift from health and safety to economic recovery and growth enablers such as workforce, housing, public services and infrastructure in the region. Participating in the engagement and development of the DEWR Local Jobs Program

RDA Murray continuously sought input from regional leaders in regular meetings to keep up with local government, Joined Regional Australia Institute Regional Activators Alliance and formalised our role in anchoring the Think Tank in Federal provide coal-face intelligence and feedback on government policy and foresee emerging issues and collectively work up solutions passed on through Ministerial teleconferences, briefings and regular Departmental advice.

RDA Murray worked collaboratively with RDA Hume, Loddon Mallee, Riverina, ACT and Southern Inland as well as active participation in the RDA ACT-NSW Committees Network. RDA Murray dynamically engaged in partnerships with local governments, state; NSW, Cross Border and VIC agencies and organisations to contribute to collecting and interpreting regional information for strategic planning, and delivery of advice and implementation of Australian Government programs and policies.

RDA Murray actively supported Emergency Services, Disaster Response and Recovery agencies through the region's most impactful floods ever. The region experienced major flooding from October 2022-March 2023 through 7 LGAs. RDA Murray provided advice, linkages and

connection between locals, interstate and cross-border communities, agencies and government departments. Collaboration with regional leaders and

We used our network of more than 20,000 social media and <mark>subscriber</mark> connections to provide early and consistent communications focussing on Australian government funding and programs, media releases and emergency broadcasts including natural disasters, biosecurity, public health, infrastructure and policy opportunities to engage and grow in our region.

RDA Murray promoted and connected people to Government support and stimulus, business support, migration settlement and travel advice, multicultural, disability, aged care, child care and health care work solutions and support. A wide ranging and variable recovery response saw positive results and a powerful bounce back at times during the year. Our economy was buoyed by a third consecutive, widespread, outstanding agricultural season with significant flow on into manufacturing creating a sound base from which to participate in local procurement and supply for Project Energy Connect, Hume Link, VNiWest, Riverina Redevelopment, Inland Rail and Snowy 2.0.

Significant Third Party Arrangements

RDA Murray anticipates a contract with RDA Sydney to deliver a fee for service Skilled Migration 491 Visa Application assessments on behalf of the NSW Government.

RDA Murray has a contract with RDA Riverina to deliver elements of a Country Change extension into the Murray region.

Summary of top Strategic Priorities from 2022-2023 Business Plan:

1. Launch and first year of delivery of RDA Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022-2025
2. Facilitate connectedness between Murray Region and all levels of Government
3. Improve health, education, child, aged and disability care and digital services to capitalise on population and housing competitive advantage and
4. increase workforce attraction and retention to support delivery of large infrastructure and all regional projects including employer support
5. Support efforts to improve visitation, tourism and retail offerings.

And Top Business Activities from 2022-2023 Business Plan:

1. Engage Australian Government and all three levels of government in RDA Murray Strategic Regional Plan 2022-25 delivery
   a. contact and visit incoming Ministers,
   b. invite visits and facilitate a public Launch
   c. Engage Local Government; identifying commonalities and areas to value add from new Community Service Plans
2. Deliver activities to improve workforce and employment outcomes; job matching, accommodation and housing, health, education and Care services, digital connectivity and quality of economic drivers in the region.
   a. Pilot Jobseeker Matrix of Readiness Program
   b. Assess, analyse and express priorities to improve health care services, schools, childcare, aged care and disability care and cultural assets across the region
3. Deliver 'Dare To Lead' anchored Peer Mentoring Program
4. Participate in RAI Regional Activators Alliance
5. Continue to facilitate MSEAT regional economic development key stakeholders' network
6. Participate in Riverina Murray Aboriginal Environmental Management Regional Steering Committee

Updated Table of Outcomes, Activities and Key Performance Areas

OUTCOME 1	Strategic objective 1 – Connectivity & Infrastructure: Improve digital infrastructure, communication and literacy, and accessibility Develop multi-modal links and hubs to drive freight transport, visitation and tourism, logistics and warehousing		
PART 1 – FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN	**PART 2 – FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTCOMES**		
Activity 1.1 Engage with Australian Government connectivity programs	Lead: Delivered NBN Local Cyber Security engagement and information event in Deniliquin	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	$3.8M

		Jobs (number)	
eg Connecting Regional Australia initiative and NBN Co fixed wireless and satellite upgrade	Lead/contributed to and assisted: promoted Regional Connectivity Program and supported 3 local applications that were successful with connections to key stakeholders, grant application advice and working collaboratively with Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation of Councils (RAMJO) and NBN, Wentworth Council, Henty Machinery Field Days CEO providing information and connections to inform an evidence base for the business cases	Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 1.2 Capitalise on local Regional Tech Hub build relationships and connect locals to internet connectivity support	Contributed to: worked with NSW RDAC to support local, statewide and national work up of plan to connect with NFF to support delivery in place for the Regional Tech Hub program	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 1.3 Support facilitation and coordination to inform investment initiatives eg Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal and Infrastructure Australia large projects	Supported RDA/RDV Hume with recruitment of staff for the Albury Wodonga Regional Deal consultation secretariat and recruitment of stakeholders for the Consultative Committees. Provided intel and advice for consultative committees and participated in working groups x 4 Assist: Albury Wodonga Health Service manage community expectations and cross-border cohesion in the face of extreme lobbying against funded option for Redevelopment of AWHS. Engaged Better Border Health and Border Medical Assoc to provide	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	$554M
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	Regional Projects program negotiated between Commonwealth, VIC and NSW Gov delivering agreed projects across Albury and Wodonga LGAs
		Other facilitation activities	

Activity 1.4 Engage SecureEnergy investment in legacy infrastructure hubs in Wentworth & Balranald LGAs	Coordinated with RDA Riverina to work collaboratively to achieve multiregional investment model with Transgrid through a lead contract. Outcomes were extending www.jobsriverinamurray.com.au and www.countrychange.com.au to the Murray Region. Support Transgrid VNI West Regional Consultative committee recruitment and participation. Monitor HumeLink, Snowy 2.0 and Inland Rail issues responding PRN when Murray regional issues arise. Worked with RDA Riverina, ICN, Business NSW Murray Riverina and DRNSW connecting and engaging major project operational teams to quantify and qualify workforce, materials supply and projected demands on local communities. Provided links and engagement of local businesses and business and industry leadres to key staff in major projects	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	900
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	Training and Education for 60 locals, 300 TSS Skilled Migrant introductions to region
		Other facilitation activities	

OUTCOME 2	Strategic objective 2 – Human Capital and Skills Creating networked and knowledgeable learning communities capable of attracting, connecting and retaining workforce		
SECTION 1 – FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN			
Activity 2.1 Lead innovative development, attraction and retention of an adaptable and skilled new workforce and welcome newcomers for population growth	Lead/contribute: Launched the extension of www.jobsriverinamurray.com.au into the Murray region and cross border communities. Lead: migrant workforce settlement experience improvements through a range of programs, connecting with MNSW GROW, Skilled Migration and Gateway Health, Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council. Lead: Awareness raising of Regional Skilled Migration options, Lead/assist: Join Orana DAMA geographic expansion Agreement Variation request providing evidence from Murray region to join with RDAs Riverina and Central West.	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	200
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 2.2 Incentivise workforce through investment in amenity and liveability	Lead: Co-Research the effect on migrant settlement and job satisfaction of workplace language with Dr Kellie Frost, Senior Lecturer in ESL and Applied Linguistics, Convenor, Master of Applied Linguistics, School of Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne Contribute: to Wentworth and Balranald Council engagement of Transgrid and Secure Energy JV to optimise camp amenity and connection to local services, leisure, entertainment and visitor attractions	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	

Activity 2.3 Connect potential employees with employers	Lead: extending www.jobsriverinamurray.com.au to the Murray Region Contribute to : DESE/DEWR Local Jobs Program Riverina-Murray and Goulburn-Murray programs RDA Murray hosted a cross-border Child Care Roundtable with extensive outcomes for improved coordination and collaboration between agencies to recruit, deliver projects and reduce duplication from Batlow to Benalla RDA Murray recruited and refereed Riverina Murray LJP Taskforce members, participated in the Taskforce and Chaired Working Groups for Aged Care and Aboriginal Employment throughout 22-23. Lead: June 2023 Welcoming Communities event with Gateway Health attracted 100 people to discover opportunities for jobs, health and education services, Lead: RDA Murray regularly deals with incidental referrals and connections between job seekers and employers	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 2.4 Collaborate with TAFEs & universities to align leadership and workforce skill development and deliver maximum relevant and viable courses		**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	

		Other facilitation activities	

OUTCOME 3	**Strategic objective 3 – Leadership and Collaboration** Model ethical leadership and inclusion of diverse perspectives Collaborate for stronger and more attuned collective impact		
SECTION 1 – FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN	*SECTION 2 – FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTCOMES*		
Activity 3.1 Support the delivery of leadership and governance training initiatives	Lead: Deliver 'Dare To Lead' anchored Peer Mentoring Program – created a medium term Leadership development and support program, engaged 7 participants who completed Dare To Lead Training and engaged in ongoing work together raising the profile of Dare To Lead practices in the region to June 2025 Contribute: ARLF- RAI LARC program promotion and recruitment Lead: CEO is participating in ARLF National Mentoring program as a mentor	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	$10,000
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	33 additional people received training in the region
Activity 3.2 Facilitate connections between all government, community and private industry levels to identify solutions	Lead: Build government relations with incoming government RDA Murray introduced many connections between incoming NSW MPs and local businesses, industry representatives and stakeholders Contribute: Destination Riverina Murray Destination NSW Executive Team tour of the region. Preparing and sharing stakeholder intelligence and priorities to aid flood recovery and increase visitation Facilitate regular Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce (MSEAT) meetings, preparing regional Intelligence briefings and engaging Aus Gov Ministers and Departments	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	

	Facilitate local government workshops to identify new Community Service Plan commonalities and value adds		
Activity 3.3 Support inclusive and diverse participation in leadership roles so that all the region's demographics are represented and visible in leadership settings	Lead: Amplify opportunities to engage and represent visible diversity in leadership using communications and RDA Murray presence Lead: eNews and Grants newsletters and social media promotion collecting collating and communicating key information widely. Contribute: Multicultural NSW Regional Advisory Group participate and contribute to COVID and restructure meetings to represent regional areas' multiculturalism needs Contribute: engage and refer 7 business startups to BEC Contribute: GROW Multicultural NSW Taskforce and support implementation of multiculturalism and Welcoming Cities in 3 local government areas. Contribute: to 10 Local Government Area Community Service Plans eg supported 2 day Robbie Sefton workshop with new Edward River Council Councillors presenting on Advocacy and Governance Improvement	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
OUTCOME 4	**Strategic objective 4 – Regional Employment & Business** Accelerate capacity building and economic diversification		
SECTION 1 – FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN	a. *SECTION 2 – FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTCOMES*		
Activity 4.1 Discover and advocate for continued innovation and expansion opportunities especially	Maintain connections with agribusiness innovations sector and businesses in the region	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	

value adding to processing primary production where it is produced	Actively participate in Defence Murray Riverina Alliance developing small businesses capacity	Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 4.2 Integrate systems to engage and develop economic participation of marginalised groups (Aboriginal, women, people living with disability, young people)	Build government relations with incoming government Facilitate local government workshops to identify new Community Service Plan commonalities and value adds Participate in Riverina Murray Aboriginal Environmental Management Regional Steering Committee	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 4.3 Optimise connectivity with international contemporary best practice to increase regional uptake of best practice	RDA Murray supported and promoted relevant organisations who deliver evidence based, global advice about better practices HBR, Nuffield, Drought Hubs etc	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development	

		outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 4.4 Deliver programs through local agencies to encourage regionalisation as opposed to centralisation	Build government relations with incoming government Facilitate local government workshops to identify new Community Service Plan commonalities and value adds Support local procurement, contract engagement and capacity building of local agencies (businesses, NFPs, government departments and peak bodies)	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
OUTCOME 5	**Strategic objective 5 – Amenity and Liveability** Build world standard housing, health, education, leisure and recreational opportunities, for all		
SECTION 1 – FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN	b. *SECTION 2 – FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTCOMES*		
Activity 5.1 Address housing affordability and range of stock. Encourage innovative accommodation programs eg audits and shared housing projects.	Build government relations with incoming government – RDA Murray participated in meetings and prepared briefs and connections for people with innovative solutions to share their knowledge and ideas and form	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development	

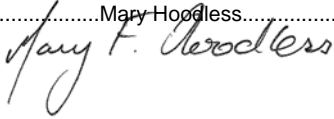|			
	Participate in RAI Regional Activators Alliance, monitor and support three levels of government and industry to deliver HomeBuilder, Public Housing and other housing affordability policies and programs.	outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 5.2 Support seamless access to quality health and education services eg Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal. Explore models for equitable delivery to rural communities	Lead and assist: RDA Murray assessed, analysed and expressed priorities to improve health care services, schools, child care, aged care and disability care and cultural assets across the region into Commonwealth departmental and Ministerial briefs and advice including visits	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 5.3 Advocate for equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, recreation and opportunities to socialise	Lead and assist: RDA Murray assessed, analysed and expressed priorities to improve internet access and quality, health care services, schools, child care, aged care and disability care and cultural assets across the region to enable workforce participation and retain regional movers	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 5.4 Support the creation of touring economies through markets, arts, crafts, food and other cultural events	RDA Murray continued to partner with SW Arts to engage local governments in developing Cultural Assets Mapping and an Advocacy Plan	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	

		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 5.5 Active transport/public transport	Lead and assist: RDA Murray assessed, analysed and expressed priorities to improve health care services, schools, child care, aged care and disability care and cultural assets across the region into NSW stats election campaigns, Commonwealth departmental and Ministerial briefs and advice including visits	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 5.6 Advocacy for high quality, accessible, sustainable and inclusive public spaces	Lead and assist: RDA Murray assessed, analysed and expressed priorities to improve health care services, schools, child care, aged care and disability care and cultural assets across the region into NSW stats election campaigns, Commonwealth departmental and Ministerial briefs and advice including visits	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
OUTCOME 6	**Strategic objective 6 – Sustainable Natural Resources** Champion behaviours that preserve, conserve and regenerate our natural resources (focussing on water, vegetation, soil and carbon) to address climate change		
SECTION 1 – FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN	*SECTION 2 – FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTCOMES*		
Activity 6.1 Support the optimal management of resources for future generations	Lead and Assist: RDA Murray generated social media copy and shared evidence and practices	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	

		Provide details of outcomes	$ / Number
	to manage resources using social and traditional media	Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
	RDA Murray influenced Landcare and Producer Group strategic priorities and engagement in decarbonisation and climate change, renewable energy production and transmission through Board and staff memberships and leadership roles in community based groups such as Holbrook Landcare Network, Riverine Plains and Murray Landcare Collective.	Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 6.2 Facilitate a sustainable region by 2030	Lead and Assist: RDA Murray generated social media copy and shared evidence and practices to manage resources using social and traditional media. Lead and contribute: RDA Murray Board and CEO connected 'silos' of manufacturing, agriculture and energy producers to create opportunities for local economies through membership and advocacy on behalf of local community based groups and agencies.	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 6.3 Foster circular economies	Lead and Assist: RDA Murray generated social media copy and shared, promoted and engaged publicity normalising circular resource utilisation	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	Albury City Nexus Industrial Development attracted large and smaller circular economy investors
		Other facilitation activities	CEO facilitated Circular Economy

			session at 2 small Conferences
Activity 6.4 Support Murray Landcare Collective, a dynamic primary producer and land manager learning community	RDA shared grants and funding opportunities, introduced Minister McBain and Murray LLS and Riverina LLS Boards to Murray Landcare stakeholders at HMFD RDA Murray supported Murray Landcare Regional Strategic planning and cohesion RDA Murray supported regional and state advocacy	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	NSW Gov election promises up to $54M for investment in Landcare
		Other facilitation activities	
Activity 6.5 Support Aboriginal land management	Lead: RDA Murray hosted conversations with Aboriginal Liaison professionals in Albury to establish policy and practical priorities which included raising awareness of acknowledging traditional custodians and access to land. RDA Murray fostered connections with local Landcare and Producer Groups and individual landholders to engage local landholders in first nations perspectives. Holbrook Landcare Network delivered a Aboriginal Cultural Training program for Board Members and Staff CEO walked on country with Aunty Ruth Davys learning and sharing the Aboriginal TEK and local knowledge of country prior to HLN meetings. RDA Murray supported several applications and processes to gain Aboriginal Ranger programs and positions through Aboriginal controlled organisations and Murray LLS.	**Provide details of outcomes**	**$ / Number**
		Investments ($)	
		Jobs (number)	5
		Local procurement ($)	
		Other regional development outcomes ($ / number)	
		Other facilitation activities	

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Certification:

Annual Budget / Annual Audited Accounts (indicate which) Certified as Correct by:

Name of authorised person: ..../........Mary Hoodless....................

Mary F. Aerodless

Signature: ....

Date: 2 9 / 0 9 / 2 0 2 3...

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Case Studies

Case Study 1

Partnership the focus of the Euston Economic Development Forum

Located in the far south-west of NSW, in terms of population, Balranald and Wentworth Shires are amongst the smallest Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW.

In April 2023 Department of NSW Regions Economic Development and Coordination Manager, Hodi Beauliv initiated a partnership with RDA Murray to facilitate collaborative economic development between Wentworth And Balranald LGAs and Regional and local stakeholders. Participants from across State and Local Government, Education, Tourism, Business and Industry from Wentworth and Balranald Shires and surrounds came together for the Euston Economic Forum.

The forum aimed to share plans, challenges, opportunities, and observations and stimulate coordination and collaboration of economic development activities in the two LGAs.

CEO of Regional Development Australia Murray Edwina Hayes said the forum produced an Agreed Action Plan including the beginnings of a collaborative Economic Development Strategy which will be bolstered with shared events, programs and training and education opportunities to support local community engagement and leadership.

"Each representative discussed their formal plans, goals, and local strategies to achieve economic development. This exposed a number of commonalities, included a unanimous desire to work together, encourage diversification and sustainability of enterprises and use government and private support to achieve local objectives," Mrs Hayes said.

"Participants described the myriad of events and activities already occurring, including the Great Murray River Salami Festival, Light/State, Five Rivers, and Mungo Tourism, as well as partnerships and relationships to build on. There was also a positive consensus to continue regular meetings and a desire to establish a regular forum for supporting coordinated economic development activities in the Balranald and Wentworth LGAs."

"We are particularly excited about the opportunities to work together to support local people who are curious about future leadership roles such as Councillor, sporting organisation committee member or community not for profit sector committee members."

3 Wentworth Council's Simon Rule and Balranald Council GM Craig Bennet going over the intel with Hodi Beauliv from DRNSW

Case Study 2

More than 100 migrants benefit from welcome event

Settling into a life in a new country is hard, which is why RDA Murray marked Refugee Week with a Migrant Information and Welcome Event for new arrivals in June 2023.

More than 100 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community members, Skilled Migrants, refugees, and other new arrivals attended the free event organised by RDA Murray in partnership with Gateway Health.

The event brought together migrants with local employers and organisations, providing support around resume writing, interview skills, health, education, child care and training to assist new arrivals settling into the community. AlburyCity Mayor Cr Kylie King and Wodonga Council Mayor Cr Ron Mildren were also in attendance to officially welcome migrants to their communities.

Regional Development Australia CEO Edwina Hayes said the event helped break down barriers, open doors and encourage employment opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

"Migrants have made a tremendous contribution to the Murray region over the years. But moving to a new place is always hard. This is why creating a sense of welcome and belonging for our new arrivals is absolutely vital, and the first step is to make sure they have the right contacts, information, and advice," Mrs Hayes said.

"The Welcome Event offered migrants the opportunity to meet local service providers, relax and connect with others, share their stories and experiences, and ask any questions in a safe, supportive space. The feedback we received from attendees was fantastic, many were able to connect with a variety of local employers, services and support and we hope to continue to hold similar events in the future."

Case Study 3

Spreading the word about cyber security in Deniliquin

Cybersecurity is an increasingly important issue. The average cost of a business cyber-attack averages $276,323 and up to a third of all businesses have experienced cybercrime, with 60 percent of attacks targeting small and medium businesses.
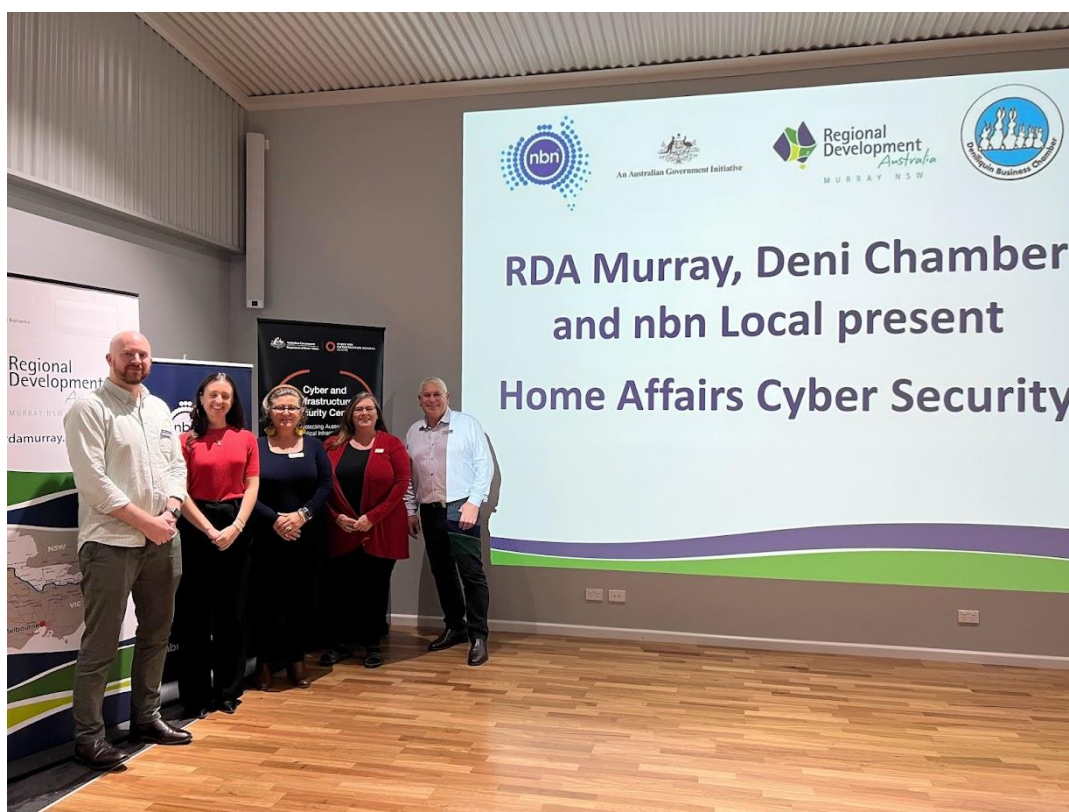
Alarming statistics like these prompted RDA Murray to partner with Department of Home Affairs, NBN and Deniliquin Business Chamber to host a cybersecurity risk and management workshop in May 2023.

The event was a chance for local government, businesses, and organisations to hear from digital experts from the Australian Government Home Affairs Cyber Security Outreach team and nbn Local about cyber criminal's methods, traps, and trends and how to manage cybersecurity risks and responsibilities.

Regional Development Australia Murray (RDA Murray) CEO Edwina Hayes said the event was designed to help local businesses and organisations understand the importance of cyber security and how to best protect themselves from an attack.

"As the number of internet and mobile phone users grows, so do cybercrimes. Cyber-attacks are becoming increasingly common and globally cybercrime is one of the fastest growing threats to people, businesses, and organisations," Mrs Hayes said.

"Cybercrime and data breaches can have dire consequences for any organisation. Our goal with the cybersecurity event was to educate local people about simple and effective cybersecurity improvements to detect, prevent, and deal with attacks and the risks associated with ignoring cybersecurity."

Case Study 4

Country University Centre could help grow local talent in the local area

Only around 24 per cent of regional students are likely to gain a bachelor degree or higher, this is 50 per cent lower compared to metro students.

RDA Murray has been working alongside local councils, businesses and organisations to support a Country University Centre proposed for the Southern Riverina region. A Country University Centre (CUC) offers students the opportunity to study a degree from over 40 academic institutions, providing face-to-face support, learning skill advisors and the ability for flexible access to facilities and out of hours support.

Regional Development Australia Murray CEO Edwina Hayes, said the proposed Centre aims to create opportunities for young people to gain tertiary qualifications while remaining in their local community, helping the area to grow and thrive by ensuring a steady supply of new professionals for the region.

"Not everyone who lives in our region can afford to, or wants to, leave their community to study. The CUC Multiple Centre Model, aims to establish four separate centres with an overarching Centre Manager across the region, which would give people in our communities the opportunity to stay, train and grow where they are already connected and have support networks in place," Mrs Hayes said.

"Based on the success of other CUC models rolled out elsewhere, we are confident the provision of this service in the Southern Riverina will help build the skills of people in our community. Upskilling people locally creates local opportunities for business and volunteer organisations. And the more skilled people who can stay in our local area, the more our communities can grow and thrive."

Chair's Certification

Name of authorised person: ....Mary Hoodless.................

Signature: ....

Date: 29/09/2023..