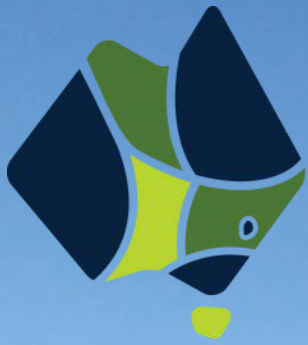




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Regional Development *Australia*

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Year in Review 2022



TOP 5

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022-23

Regionalisation

- Enhancing liveability
- Population and workforce attraction
- Supporting regional SMEs
- International skilled migration
- Strategic regional planning

Federal Recognition

- Federal (and State) Government advocacy and engagement with the Goldfields-Esperance region
- Genuine funding consideration and expanded investment attraction through partnerships
- Awareness of funding programs, grants, pilots and initiatives
- Attracting government strategy and innovation

Capacity

- Aboriginal economic development capabilities
- Skilled workforce shortage
- Unskilled workforce development
- International migration
- Leadership education
- Land and housing supply
- Tax incentivisation ie FBT Policy Reform

Diversification

- Tourism development
- Intermodal hubs
- The 'Outback Way'
- Critical minerals hub
- Renewable hydrogen hub

Infrastructure

- Supporting industry and community
- Road, Rail, Air, Energy, Water and Waste
- Digital connectivity
- Sustainable industry
- Smart regions that are 'future ready'



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Regional Development Australia
GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE



RDA Goldfields Esperance acknowledges the traditional custodians of the Goldfields Esperance region and their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Artwork by Travis Tucker

A word from our Chairperson

I am pleased to present our 2022 Year in Review.

For our **Regional Development Australia (RDA) Goldfields Esperance** team, 2022 was about getting on with strategically working together with our key regional partners to continue to advocate for and grow our diverse and unique region. It was an extremely busy year as you are about to discover.

We started the year with a Strategic Planning Day to review our key strategic priority areas items. These were determined to be Infrastructure, Regionalization, Federal recognition, Capacity and Diversification.

Our committee meetings were held across the region including Esperance, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Leonora and Norseman. We farewelled Laura Dwyer, our Deputy Chairperson after 5 years, and Brian Joiner. We welcomed our new committee members Patrick Fraser (Deputy Chairperson), Donna Malec and Marta Perona. We also celebrated Patrick Hill serving 10 years on our committee.

Sadly we were unsuccessful on a number of funding opportunities to progress our regional university centre and leadership initiative programmes, but we will continue to pursue these in the coming years.

I look forward to continuing to work with our key regional stakeholders to support and deliver strong economic outcomes for Goldfields Esperance in 2023.


Lee Jacobsen
Chairperson



RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee and Staff

From left to right: Shaun Meares, Priscilla Davies, Marta Perona, Donna Malec, Raz Ion (Director), Lee Jacobsen (Chairperson), Patrick Fraser (Deputy Chairperson), Peta Griffiths (Project Officer), Patrick Hill, Shane Reilly, Peter Rampellini and Travis Tucker

Projects

In March, the team at RDA Goldfields Esperance spent many backbreaking hours working on a submission to apply for federal funding to establish a **Regional University Centre**, with the grant window being less than a month. Meetings and location tours were quickly arranged with Curtin University (School of Mines), the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Goldfields Esperance Development Commission; as well as reaching out to various Tertiary Education providers around Australia and analysing raw data to prepare an extensive Business Case.



The **Goldfields Esperance Universities Centre (GEUC)** would provide the region with a central campus style facility situated in the heart of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder central business district, with a future satellite in Esperance.

This campus style hub would be designed to emulate a 'real' university experience providing a physical and well-serviced study hub to assist and support over 600 students currently enrolled with tertiary institutions via remote learning in the region, including access to a student support coordinator, all at no charge to the student.

The GEUC would encourage existing and prospective students to continue living regionally within their local community whilst completing their tertiary education, and will encourage the retention of qualified, professional graduates within our regional workforce, post-study.

While we were unfortunately unsuccessful in our application, we are continuing with this project by engaging a consultant to undertake a formal **feasibility study** prior to the next round of funding. If you would like to support this project, please reach out to us.



Federal Recognition

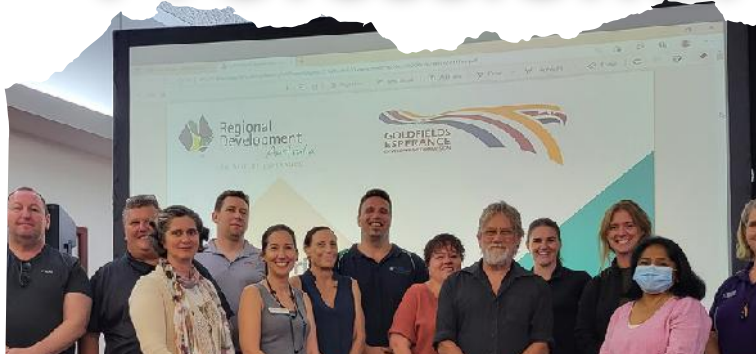
In July, RDA Goldfields Esperance co-hosted a local Business After Hours with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry and our special guest speaker **Rick Wilson MP**, Federal Member for O'Connor and Shadow Assistant Minister for Trade.

Raz and Peta travelled to Canberra in September for the **State of the Nation** conference where Raz met Hon Roger Cook MP, Deputy Premier of Western Australia. We then attended the **National Regions Rising Summit** hosted by the Regional Australia Institute where the '**Regionalisation Ambition 2032: A Framework to Rebalance the Nation**' was officially launched. Raz took part in a panel on regional voices and promoted our involvement with the Regional Climate Alliance and Renewable Energy Strategy.

In October, Lee attended the **WALGA Conference** where the **WA RDA Network** met with The **Hon Kristy McBain MP** (Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories) and launched the **WA Regional Investment Prospectus**.

We collaborated with the **More than Mining** policy advocacy group who seek to equalise tax benefits for companies and individuals as a way to **stabilise housing affordability** and transform our regional communities into sustainable, attractive places to live and work.

Professional Development



In May we partnered with Golden Mile Art to support Paula Silbert in mentoring local Goldfields artists and creative content makers through delivery of her highly-sought artistic **Professional Development masterclass**. We love supporting and encouraging the arts to improve the liveability of our region.



In February, RDA Goldfields Esperance, in conjunction with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission and the Small Business Development Corporation, welcomed Priscilla Clayton of Clayton Consulting to our region. Priscilla presented a series of **free Grant Writing and Tender Writing** workshops which were hosted in Esperance, Kalgoorlie and Leonora.

A number of **Local Procurement Opportunities** sessions were also held with presentations from Southern Ports Authority, Horizon Power, Shire of Esperance and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Our staff attended various local training programs including the **Career Sustainability and Economic Empowerment of Rural Regional and Remote (RRR) Women** presented by Curtin University and the RRR Women's Network of WA held in August.



Our **Future Leaders Program Goldfields** continued into 2022. Highlights included workshops where local business leaders, including Kylie McLerie, Frank Jacobsen and Janine Varley, proffered their wisdom to inspire our Leaders; a fun Art and Wine team building evening was spent at Maker's Tribe in June; and finally in October the long anticipated wind-up event to celebrate everyone's achievements.

We proudly presented **Leadership Awards** to Alasdair Wilson, for Outstanding Achievement, and Kyra King, for High Achievement. We can't wait to see what the future holds for our cohort!

In 2023 we will be running a revamped version of our program, now called the **Esperance-Ravensthorpe Leadership Initiative (ERLI)**. We anticipate launching the **Goldfields Leadership Initiative** in 2024.

Please follow our socials for more information.



In June we invited Shari Champion, from You & I - Nyunu Ngayu, to be a guest speaker at our Committee Meeting in Norseman. Shari coached us through some **Cultural Awareness Training**. We really enjoyed listening to Shari and having the opportunity to ask questions and explore some of the information she provided us. In fact, we probably could have skipped the meeting and just talked with Shari the whole day!

FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM GOLDFIELDS 2021-2022

Publications

RDA Goldfields Esperance saw the importance of conducting a housing needs assessment and worked with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry to produce the **Kalgoorlie-Boulder Land and Housing Position Paper**.

The paper was produced in collaboration with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission.



We also worked with RDA Perth in producing both the **WA Investment Prospectus** and the **RDA WA Advertising Liftout** in the West Australian.

These publications and more are on our website, visit:

www.rdage.org.au/publications



Supporting Projects & Grants

RDA Goldfields Esperance support local proponents through promoting local, private and government grants. We can provide letters of support which will include **Economic Impact Modelling** or **Event Impact Assessment**. We can also assist with your application in general (to a limited capacity). We do not charge for these services.

In 2022 we partnered with the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils to provide valuable economic and community profiling tools which is now broken down into each of the individual local government areas across our region.

We supported a number of successful applications for the **Regional Connectivity Program Round 2**. In total our region's recipients received over **\$5 million** dollars in funding across the Shires of Ravensthorpe, Esperance and Menzies.

We also supported 7 worthy applications for the **Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Round 6**, which was subsequently cancelled in October. Two new regional funding programs were announced to replace the BBRF and we anticipate further information about them will be available in 2023.

If you have any questions about grant applications, finding sources of funding, or any other project support that benefits our region, contact us today.

Visa Support

RDA Goldfields Esperance are the **Regional Certifying Body** for the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) Visa (Subclass 494) working to promote skilled migration into the region. In 2022 we certified applications across the region in industries such as mining, trade, hospitality and health. We also support the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder with the **Goldfields Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)** and in January we presented at the **Goldfields Migration Employment and Visa Information Session**.

Climate Alliance

We are a member of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils **Regional Climate Alliance** sub-committee. We have partnered with local governments and the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission to develop climate sustainability orientated projects and deliver climate conscious business opportunities. We have also contributed funding towards the **Goldfields-Esperance Renewable Energy Project Audit and Strategy** which is due for release in 2023.



RDA Goldfields Esperance have been proud to sponsor local events and initiatives throughout the Goldfields Esperance region.

In 2022 we **sponsored** the following events:

- Business After Hours
- Coolgardie Rodeo and Ute Muster
- ECCI Celebration Evening
- Esperance Young Professionals
- Forest Products Commission Student
- Goldfields Aboriginal Business Forum & Trade
- Goldfields Migration Employment and Visa Information Session
- Goldfields Girl
- Kalgoorlie-Boulder Commodities Forum
- KBCCI Goldfields Business Awards
- Shire of Menzies Discovery Day
- What's Down the Track
- Women's Leadership Forum
- Wonderful Indonesia Festival

Local Sponsorships



RDA Goldfields Esperance have a limited annual budget for sponsorships and events. We endeavour to support events which have benefits for the region and align with the **RDA charter** and our **strategic priorities**.



Whenever possible, we partner up with local, state and national stakeholders to provide the best outcome for our region. Promoting and supporting the Goldfields Esperance region is always our top priority.

We are excited to support **Australia's Golden Outback Goldfields Tourism Development Office** and the expansion of tourism across our region.

Peta, our Project Officer, loved spending a day on Country with a Women's Honeyants Bush Day organised through a partnership between Mara Pirni Healing Place and Ngunyntju Tjitji Pirni, with thanks to a **Connecting to Country** grant.





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