



Regional Development *Australia*

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE



ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18

Contents

Chairperson Report.....	3
Overview	4
Director Report	5
RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee and Staff	13

Chairperson Report

I accepted the role of chair of RDA Goldfields Esperance at the end of March 2018, taking over the role from Acting Chair Tori Castledine as former Chair Julia Shadlow-Bath had completed her tenure as Chair person in December 2017.

I immediately commenced the process of calling for new board members & the recruitment of a new Director of Regional Development. I was ably assisted by ongoing Deputy Chair Tori Castledene and interim Executive Officer Kate Mills from Puzzle Consulting.

Whilst in a state of uncertainty with the Federal Governments review of RDA's pending, RDAGE still managed to have a productive year in 2017-2018, despite the state of flux.

The activities of RDAGE are covered in the Directors report.

Board appointments were completed and accepted by the department in time for a 30th June handover. The Board of RDAGE for 2018-2020 comprises of

Position on RDAGE Board	Name	Location	Term Expires
Chairperson	Lee Jacobsen	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	31 December 2020
Deputy Chairperson	Victoria (Tori) Castledine	Esperance	31 December 2020
Committee member	Patrick Hill	Laverton	31 December 2020
Committee member	Shaun Meares	Esperance	31 December 2020
Committee member	Laura Dwyer	Kalgoorlie-Boulder / Coolgardie	31 December 2020
Committee member	Chelsea Grace	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	31 December 2020
Committee member	Rowena Olsen	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	31 December 2020

Recruitment of a new Director followed the prescribed process in the RDA recruitment guide. After calling for Expressions of Interest & quotes from a number of agencies, Waypoint was selected to conduct the recruitment process. 15 Expression of interest resulted in 7 applications and 4 interviews, with successful candidate Dr Steve Halls commencing in the role 23rd July 2018.

Thankyou to Julia for her years as Chair and Board Member, and to Tori for ably filling the role of Acting Chair and remaining on as Deputy for another term.

Lee Jacobsen
Chair

Overview

Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance is part of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Network. RDAGE is a locally managed organisation funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. RDA Chairs and members volunteer their time and energy and have a personal commitment to working in partnership with all levels of government for the benefit of their local and regional communities.

The RDA network is responsible for achieving a 10 point charter:



Australian Government



STRONG, CONFIDENT AND VIBRANT REGIONS

A NEW CHARTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role in their communities and a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment.

Working in close partnership with fellow RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees will:

1. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify economic opportunities and leverage private and public sector investment to the regions;
2. Connect regional businesses, councils and industry sectors with international trade partners, financial markets and potential investors;
3. Promote and disseminate information on Australian Government policies and grant programs to state and local governments and industry, business and community sectors;
4. Support community stakeholders to develop project proposals to access funding;
5. Develop and maintain positive working relationships with the local government bodies in their regions;
6. Facilitate public and private sector decentralisation;
7. Assist in the delivery of Australian Government programs, where relevant and where requested by the Minister;
8. Engage with regional entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders to explore new opportunities to grow local jobs in their regions;
9. Provide information on their region's activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors; and
10. Provide evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on critical regional development issues positively and negatively affecting their regions.

Minister for Regional Development

August 2017

Director Report

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) has enjoyed a number of key achievements in the past year, whilst transitioning to a new Federal Charter, new Chair and Deputy Chair appointments, new committee members appointed and a new Director.

BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM



The Business Growth Program was a tailored program for business owners delivered in partnership with Curtin University's Centre for Entrepreneurship in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The program was presented by experts in business who provided a relevant and practical toolkit for businesses to maximise.

The program was delivered through two interrelated parts, the facilitated workshops and individual mentoring session with the trainers. Each component complimented the other in enhancing the effectiveness of the program. Nineteen Business' from Kambalda, Kalgoorlie, Norseman and Esperance participated. During the program, the Curtin trainers undertook a total of twenty-four hours of individual mentoring which involved thirty one business owners (including recurring attendances).

AICD GOVERNANCE TRAINING

Fifty people participated in the Australian Institute of Company Directors Governance Workshop delivered by RDA in Kalgoorlie and Esperance. The course is designed for first time committee members/directors or those considering taking a position on a not-for-profit board. Staff at not-for-profits also gain a deeper understanding of the functions of their boards. Participants gained an understanding of fundamental compliance and performance related roles and responsibilities of not-for-profit directors, specifically in the area of governance.

This capacity building assists our local organisations to:

- Identify the key duties and responsibilities of directors in the not-for-profit environment
- Appreciate the potential personal liability of directors
- Understand governance structures as they apply in the not-for-profit context
- Consider the differences / similarities and nuances of the director's role in the not-for-profit / for profit sectors

WEST TECH FEST

RDA sponsored and attended the Mid-West, West Tech Fest event in 2017. West Tech Fest celebrates innovation, investment and entrepreneurship. The West Tech Fest attracts founders, tech leaders and investors from the US, UK, Asia and from around Australia. Over the last six years the West Tech Fest has built a strong global network and profile, with many successful investment outcomes.

DEMOS OF THE NORTHERN GOLDFIELDS



Following community requests and inspired by the success of last year's acclaimed Sounds Of The Goldfields, RDA was once again pleased to sponsor WAM for the Demos From The Northern Goldfields project. The album featured nine artists, predominantly indigenous from the Northern Goldfields.

AUSINDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP: ACCELERATING INNOVATION

RDA co-hosted an event with AusIndustry, with special guest Director of Accelerating Commercialisation Larry Lopez: with a group of businesses and stakeholders in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to share information on innovation, potential grant funding, commercialisation pathways, operational and regulatory challenges and simply to exchange some interesting stories.

PARTNERSHIP WITH GOLDFIELDS TOURISM (GTNA)

RDA strengthened the support of the tourism industry through co-locating GTNA in the RDA office. This partnership highlights the value we place on this key economic driver of our region, and provided an opportunity to support an organisation and more actively engage with their local government members.

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND (BBRF) SUPPORT

RDA provided critical support to six BBRF applications from our region, through letters of support, review and feedback, proactive information sharing including providing the RDA manual on infrastructure applications and cost benefit analysis.

ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO LIVE IN OUR REGION

RDAGE led the process through the Growth Plan Partnership Group to produce a messaging framework and content marketing strategy aimed at ensuring we can attract people to fill the job role we have available across our region.

It is universally acknowledged that Kalgoorlie-Boulder needs to deliver a unique, imaginative and audience engaging strategy to attract people to move to our City and surrounding region. Skill shortages, university enrolments, housing demand, basic service delivery all depend on our ability to convince people that Kalgoorlie is a city brimming with economic opportunity, with job opportunities across industries, and the highest average income in Australia. The quality of life is unparalleled, with a welcoming community, affordable living, with everything you need close to home and where you can be home for dinner every night. It's easily accessible to capital cities, with all the services you'd expect living in a city, including hospitals, universities, and top-of-the range sports facilities.



JOBS EXPO

RDA attended and had a booth at the Kal Jobs Expo in Perth. We promoted the region as a great place to live and answered questions about living in Kalgoorlie and the wider region. It was fantastic to be involved with many of our local employers and industry groups to promote the jobs we have on offer in the region.

CANBERRA DELEGATION



RDAGE Committee members, Chair Lee Jacobsen, Julia Shadlow-Bath and Patrick Hill traveled to Canberra at the end of March with the Outback Way delegation. Hosted by Rick Wilson MHR at Parliament House, many productive meetings were held with a range of Ministers and government officials to promote the Goldfields-Esperance regional interests and provide advice on critical issues impacting the region.

ESPERANCE OVER THE HORIZON FORUM

The 10th annual Over the Horizon forum was held on Tuesday 10th April in Esperance and was attended by Chair, Lee Jacobsen as well as Committee Members Tori Castledine and Shayne Flanagan.

The forum was opened by Member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson MP who acknowledged newly appointed Chair Lee Jacobsen and attending Committee members, Tori and Shayne. Presentations included a diverse range of speakers for industry bodies, mining companies and local service organisations.



EXPANDED REGIONAL MEDICAL FACILITIES

Chair of RDAGE, Lee Jacobsen was the MC at the recent opening of the expanded Plaza Medical Centre in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Congratulations to Dr Kylie and Robert Sterry who's vision (along with some Federal Government Funding) has seen the successful delivery of new medical infrastructure in our region.



LABOUR SHORTAGE FORUM

RDAGE co-hosted a Labour Shortage Forum with our local Federal Member Rick Wilson MHR and the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Alan Tudge. Committee members Laura Dwyer and Chair Lee Jacobsen both attended the forum and were able to promote the attraction Kalgoorlie campaign as well as provide the data RDAGE has collated from our role as the Regional Certifying Body for Sponsored Migration in the Goldfields-Esperance region.



The data shows that in the preceding 12 months, 42% of applications were in the hospitality sector, 18% in the mining and support services sector, 14% in retail and services and 8% in childcare

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR



Regional Development Australia (RDA) Goldfields Esperance was pleased to announce the commencement of Dr Steven Halls as the new Director of Regional Development. Dr Halls has worked across academia, government and industry in providing strategic expertise in developing innovative solutions to business and in delivering projects. He has recently been advising the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on the development of programs of action on economic diversification and has worked both in Australia and overseas on major projects in the mining, oil and gas sectors.

Dr Halls has worked with a number of international and Australian organisation including the European Commission, United Nations, Murdoch University, Gold Fields and Mount Magnet Gold. He was also a Board member for the West Australian Environmental Protection Authority and a member of the Commonwealth Science and Research Fund Advisory Board.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS



RDA Goldfields Esperance attended a hands-on 2016 Data Information Session with the visiting Australian Bureau of Statistics Engagement Manager. The session enabled attendees to learn more about the data provided in the Census and how to better utilise it.

2018 KALGOORLIE-BOULDER WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

The 2018 Women's' Leadership Forum was a celebration of women. The event shines a light on the important strategic position women play on the region's economy and will act as a conduit for higher representation of female leadership across our community. The incredible speakers will share their stories of how they pioneered in their field, overcame gender inequality and adversity and became inspiring mentors for women all over the world. RDA promoted the forum and committee members attended the event

FEDERAL BUDGET: OUTBACK WAY FUNDING

We were pleased to see the Outback Way secure funds in the Federal Budget. \$160M seals a further 300km, and only 900km of sealing remaining to connect Australia from East to West - Australia's Longest Shortcut.



RDA Goldfields Esperance Chair Lee Jacobsen and Committee member Julia Shadlow-Bath accompanied delegates from the Outback Highway Development Council to Canberra in March. The trip provided an opportunity for RDAGE to support the campaign to seal the remaining section of the Outback Way and highlight Goldfields Esperance issues to the Federal Government.

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Economic Development Conference was held on Wednesday 6 June 2018 at the Hyatt Regency, Perth. The full day event showcased presentations from local representatives, mining companies and State Government departments, with panel discussions on topics relating to growth opportunities and attracting investment. The event was a joint initiative of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and was attended by approximately 300 delegates (as reported by the KBCCI).



In addition to the presentation, two panel discussions were conducted on the topics of Greatest Growth Opportunities and Attracting Business and Industry Investment – Promoting Liveability and Opportunity. Both panel discussions included key industry and government representatives, providing an opportunity for further exploration of each topic.

METS IGNITED

METS Ignited hosted a free information session in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on accessing *Project Funds*. It was an opportunity for companies to secure matched funding to commercialise innovation that will benefit the Australian mining equipment, technology and services (METS) and mining sectors.

WHAT'S DOWN THE TRACK

RDAGE joined more than 250 participants at the annual *What's Down the Track Forum* in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The forum is a joint venture between the Chamber of Minerals & Energy of Western Australia (CME) and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc (KBCCI) with the support of the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (GEDC). The full day event included more than 30 presentations on developments occurring in the resources, infrastructure, education and tourism sectors over the next one to three years.

OTHER PARTICIPATION

- WA Industry Link Regional Roadshow
- Senate Inquiry into the NDIS
- Regional Telecommunications Review
- Destination WA showcasing our region
- Curtin University Council meeting in Kalgoorlie
- GEDC and KBCCI breakfast to launch solar projects for our region

NEWSLETTERS

RDA publishes a newsletter which is sent via an email database to over 450 contacts:

- RDAGE Committee members
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Heads of Agency representatives
- Community Resource Centres
- Local Government Authorities
- Other regional stakeholders

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES & PUBLICITY

RDA had several newspaper articles published in the Kalgoorlie Miner and Esperance Express in the 2017-18 financial year and participated in a number of ABC local radio interviews.

ARRANGEMENTS WITH THIRD PARTIES

RDAGE acts as the Regional Certifying Body (RCB) for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) for the whole of the Goldfields-Esperance region.

RDA Goldfields Esperance certified seventy-two (72) RSMS applications in 2017-2018. The administration fee for certification is \$440 (inc. GST), resulting in income of \$31,680 for the year.

RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee and Staff

The members of the RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee represent different regional areas and key stakeholder groups and include representatives from local government, partnership bodies, business and industry.

During 2017-2018 the RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee comprised:

Position on RDAGE Board	Name	Location	Term Expires
Chairperson	Julia Shadlow-Bath	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	30 June 2018
Deputy Chairperson	Victoria (Tori) Castledine	Esperance	30 June 2018
Committee member	Patrick Hill	Laverton	30 June 2018
Committee member	Shayne Flanagan	Esperance	31 May 2018
Committee member	Mandy Reidy	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	30 June 2018
Committee member	Matthew Devenish	Esperance	30 June 2018
Committee member	Laura Dwyer	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	30 June 2018

In 2017-2018 the RDA Goldfields Esperance staff comprised:

Position Held	Name	Start/End Date	Full/Part Time
Contract Executive Management	Puzzle Consulting	April 2017 - current	Contract
Contract Finance Management	Business Precision	October 2016 - current	Contract

In 2017-2018 the RDA Goldfields Esperance met:

Date	Topic	Location
28 July 2017	General Meeting	Warburton
15 September 2017	General Meeting	Esperance
27 October 2017	AGM	Teleconference
17 November 2017	General Meeting	Kalgoorlie-Boulder
16 February 2018	General Meeting	Kalgoorlie-Boulder
9 May 2018	General Meeting	Teleconference