



Newsletter

March 2013



RDA Fund

On 13th February, the Department of Regional Australia announced projects proceeding to full application for Rounds 3 & 4 of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). Projects selected in the Goldfields-Esperance region are:

Round Three

- Esperance Waterfront – Sustainable Infrastructure - Shire of Esperance
- Leonora Office and Administration Centre - Shire of Leonora
- Coolgardie Post Office Building Complex - Shire of Coolgardie
- Community Resource Centre Building Project - Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation
- Hopetoun Main Street Project Stage 1 - Shire of Ravensthorpe

Round Four

- Extension of Tjulyurru Cultural Centre Gallery - Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
- Outback Way – Upgrade - Shire of Laverton
- Ray Finlayson Sporting Complex - City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Round Three is worth \$50 million and provides grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for projects located in towns with a population of 30,000 or less. And Round Four will allocate \$175 million through grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million for priority regional infrastructure projects.

The closing dates for full applications are Wednesday 27 March 2013 for Round Three and Thursday 11 April 2013 for Round Four. Applications will be assessed by an independent Advisory Panel and funded projects will be announced from June onwards.

A list of projects selected to proceed to full application under both rounds is available at www.regional.gov.au.

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Solar Goldfields

The Goldfields, with its abundant sunshine, may be one of the best regions in Australia to consider investing in large scale solar power. On 12th February, about 50 members of the public attended a forum held in Kalgoorlie to discuss the possibilities of solar energy for the region. RDA Goldfields Esperance, in partnership with the Goldfields Renewable Energy Lobby, invited various speakers and politicians to share their views on the topic.

Attendees heard about the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), which has been established by the Australian Government to increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia; and about the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) which will invest up to \$2 billion per year in innovative renewable energy projects.

Mentoring in the Workplace

RDA Goldfields Esperance, in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), will host a free half-day workshop at the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce Function Room on Friday 8th March.

The workshop will be facilitated by the highly experienced Greg Bayne, Director of Total Leader and Coach Solutions.

If you or your employees would benefit from professional development on how to be an effective workplace mentor, please register your attendance to admin@rdage.com.au

For more information, phone 08 9464 4243.

Effective Grant Writing

RDA Goldfields Esperance is working to enhance the development of the arts sector in the region in the lead up to the Regional Arts Australia National conference, to be held in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in 2014.

As part of this objective, RDA Goldfields Esperance, in partnership with Artgold Incorporated, conducted an Effective Grant Writing workshop for members of the region's arts organisations on 24th February 2013.

The full-day workshop gave participants a greater understanding of what funding bodies are looking for in grant applications and provided practical tips on the most effective ways of putting together an application that is both comprehensive and succinct.



Solar Goldfields Forum

FIFO Report

The Regional Australia Committee's Report into fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) work practices, titled *Cancer of the bush or salvation for our cities?* was recently released.

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) attended the FIFO Inquiry's public hearing in Kalgoorlie on 19th April 2012, and sought consideration of: policies encouraging mining companies to invest capital into local communities; a review of the Fringe Benefit Tax; the provision of tax advantages to residential workers to cover regional cost of living; and, a review of the Census questionnaire to highlight FIFO place of employment.

The full report can be accessed at www.aph.gov.au/fifo



Digital Switchover Liaison Officer

Linda Belton was appointed as the Digital Switchover Liaison Officer (DSLO) for the Goldfields Esperance region in December. Her role is to ensure all residents are ready for the switchover to digital television, which takes place on 25th June 2013.

Linda has been working to ensure that applications for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) are completed in time for the transition from normal to satellite television. She will answer questions and provide further information about this at the:

- Esperance & Salmon Gums Crop Updates on 14th & 15th of March
- Esperance Festival of the Wind on 16th March
- Condingup Community Fair on 23rd March.

Coolgardie, Menzies, Leonora, Laverton, Warburton & Blackstone will have Early Switchovers, meaning analogue TV will be turned off and digital TV turned on in one single day. If your community or organisation wants a briefing about the Early Switchovers, please contact Linda at RDAGE.

In Kalgoorlie, Linda is working with housing, seniors and disability services to spread the word about the Household Assistance Scheme (HAS). The HAS enables pensioners to get free equipment and technical assistance to get ready for the switchover.

Satellite television viewers will need to transition to the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service before December 2013, more information will soon be made available.

For more information about the schemes mentioned visit www.digitalready.com.au

To report difficulties or request a briefing, please contact Linda at dslo@rdage.com.au



Linda Belton

Introduction to Being on a Board or Committee

In November 2012, RDA Goldfields-Esperance held governance training workshops in both Esperance and Kalgoorlie. There was such high demand for the training, that another workshop was recently held in Kalgoorlie.

The *Introduction to Being on a Board or Committee* workshop was aimed at both new and experienced Board/committee members from the not-for-profit sector, who were interested in getting an overview of what is involved in being on a Board, or who wanted to refresh their knowledge.

The training was conducted by Jo Buontempo, a facilitator from the Western Australian Council of Social Services Inc (WACOSS). Jo covered legal requirements, common challenges, and keys to good governance. Participants were given an understanding on what makes an effective Board and were also made aware of changes and emerging issues affecting Boards and Committees.



Governance Training Workshop



Introduction to Being on a Board or Committee Workshop

Regional Australia Institute Report



The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) has launched a report calling for the establishment of a new national organisation to tackle the shortfall in infrastructure investment and boost the regions' capacity to contribute to national economic growth.

It is widely recognised that the potential and growth of regional Australia is being severely constrained by inadequate investment in local infrastructure. The report recommends the establishment of *Local Infrastructure Australia* as the most effective way of overcoming the backlog in local government infrastructure investment now estimated at between \$12 and \$15.5 billion.

Local Infrastructure Australia would solve three underlying problems that contribute to the growing infrastructure deficit by providing local government with:

- access to significant private sector capital in an efficient and cost effective way
- much needed advice on effective infrastructure planning, investment and management.

For more information go to: <http://regionalaustralia.org.au/rai-research-and-policy/research/local-infrastructure>

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is the independent national regulator of charities which has been set up to achieve the following:

- maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the sector through increased accountability and transparency
- support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative not-for-profit sector
- promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the sector.

The ACNC will register organisations as charities and help them understand and meet their obligations. The ACNC will also maintain a free searchable public register so that anyone can look up information about registered charities. If you're a registered charity, the ACNC will be sending you a letter to make sure your charity details are up to date.

For more information phone 132262 or go to: www.acna.gov.au