



Regional
Development
Australia

Edition 1 | November 2013

WA RDA NETWORK NEWS



Local people developing local solutions to local issues across Western Australia



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional Development Australia

The WA RDA Network News is a collaborative initiative between all nine of the Regional Development Australia Committee's in Western Australia. For further information on any of the articles published in this newsletter, please note the contact details for the respective Executive Officer on Page 20 (back page).

CONTENTS

Introduction	03
Digital	04
Digital TV and Social media	07
Community	08
Youth	10
Skills and Education	11
Partnerships and Planning	12
Workforce development, Business and Industry	13
Environment and Sustainability	14
Agriculture	15
State-wide Snapshots	16
RDA Fund Projects	17
Contact details	20

Front cover: RDA Wheatbelt Photography Competition 2010 'The Easter Campout'
Back cover: Geoscience Australia

Disclaimer: This WA RDA Network News was prepared by each of the WA Regional Development Australia Committee's and does not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government, its officers, employees or agents. Any representation, statement or opinion expressed or implied is made in good faith and on the basis that the committee, Government, its employees and agents are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be, in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

THE WA RDA NETWORK... STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

Welcome to our inaugural edition of the WA RDA Network News.

For those new to Regional Development Australia (RDA), the Western Australian network is part of an effective group of 55 Committees covering every corner of the country, connecting the three levels of government together and with their local communities.

Each RDA Committee is made up of volunteers and each play a key role in delivering real community and economic development outcomes for government through engagement and partnerships with key community stakeholders. The Committees also provide informed regional planning and promote government programs to their stakeholders.

RDAs facilitate improved coordination and collaborative effort to provide locally developed solutions to national, regional and local priorities. While there are some organisations that conduct part of this role, there is no other organisation that does this independently and apolitically or co-ordinates across sectors and governments.

As a partnership across the three levels of government, RDA is seen as the 'honest broker' with no vested interests. They are ideally placed to bring stakeholders together with the decision makers in the one location.

There are nine committees based in Western Australia located in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid-West Gascoyne, Wheatbelt, Goldfields Esperance, Perth, Peel, South West and Great Southern.

While the RDA Committees work independently, the governing RDA structure enables metropolitan, rural and remote regions to work collaboratively within a single framework on specific issues. The WA RDAs have collaborated on a number of key projects, particularly those involved in the changing digital environment.

The WA RDA Network News demonstrates how individual RDA committees are tailoring initiatives to target regionally significant issues and opportunities. It also highlights the synergies between the different regions and the obvious opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and encourage you to contact your local RDA to discuss how we can work with you to grow and develop Western Australia's regions.

Collaboratively,
Executive Officers of the nine WA RDA Committees



The WA RDA Network are already working together with local government, business and community organisations to address their digital needs and opportunities!

We have commissioned a benchmarking survey of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) use by businesses in WA. Scan this QR code with your smart device to complete the survey. For further details see Page 06.

DIGITAL

Top: RDA Peel (L-R) Coral Richard (RDA Peel Chair), John Lambrecht (RDA Peel Executive Officer, Geoff Heydon (CSIRO), David Bartlett (Explor Digital Futures), Rhys Williams (iPeel Chair), Melissa Teede (CEO Peel Development Commission)
Bottom right: RDA Peel Rhys Williams (iPeel Chair) and the Hon Gary Gray AO MP



Leaders in the Digital Future RDA PEEL

Through *iPeel* RDA Peel has conducted a number of stakeholder forums designed to raise awareness of these opportunities with the community and businesses, including sessions with major telecommunications companies such as Telstra, Optus and Vodafone and presentations from CSIRO's digital productivity flagship program.

To raise awareness of broadband within the Mandurah community, present ideas and uses of the technology and assist business with developing their digital presence RDA Peel developed www.digitalpeel.com.au which:

- Is a central site for all digital initiatives being undertaken in Peel - one place community & business can visit to identify opportunities for their digital future.
- Promotes the Digital Enterprise Program to SMEs and NFPs and encourage participation in the program.
- Promotes the Digital Hubs Program to residents and encourage participation in the program.
- Is a repository for digital resources about local heritage and community stories.
- Highlights and celebrates digital innovation.

iPeel produces a regular eNewsletter highlighting the latest happenings in the digital space which is distributed widely to businesses and the community.



RDA Peel is now working with partner agencies on further development of projects including:

- **Virtual Retail Environment** – Creation of a web based online shopping experience for retailers in the Peel, particularly those not having any web presence or conducting any online trading.
- **Teleworking Centre** – To provide a facility for residents currently travelling out of region for employment where those jobs can be performed remotely through technology use.
- **Co-working, collaboration & innovation centre** - Designed to support entrepreneurs and innovators who want to get their ideas off the ground and existing businesses interested in innovation as a means to increase productivity.
- **Digital industry hub/incubator** – To provide an accessible platform for micro-businesses to launch their online presence and encourage entry level entrepreneurship.



Development of a Digital Strategy for the Midwest RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

The City of Geraldton and Mid-West Region is one of the first communities in Australia to gain all three technology platforms making the ultra-speed broadband connections of the NBN. The City and Region are focused on achieving economic, social and environmental benefits from the NBN: that is why a Digital Strategy has been developed in partnership with local stakeholders.

Strategy recommendations:

- Continue to be an active digital technology leader.
- Create public digital platforms and infrastructure.
- Crowdfund and co-create compelling local digital content.
- Continue to build household capacity and confidence.
- Build small business skills, capacity and confidence.
- Enable new business and employment opportunities.
- Focus on building capacity in the retail, tourism and hospitality SME sector.
- Support greater access to quality education and training.
- Build innovative, globally significant smart infrastructure for the future.

Digital ready to launch RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA-South West will launch its regional digital strategy before the end of the year. The project has been a collaborative effort with SWDC and identifies five core strategies which starts with institutional framework through to engagement and delivery. RDA-SW aims to improve take up, build capacity and knowledge among users, and, work with the NBN to maximise regional opportunities. Planning is already afoot for strategic delivery of identified initiatives in 2014. These include:

- Boosting business capacity.
- Driving a CBD Wi-Fi agenda.
- Delivering a digital expo.
- Online security (inc. child safe promotion).
- Engaging the aged.
- Working with the public & private sectors.
- Supporting NBN Co roll-out.

NBN and the Digital Economy RDA PERTH

Changes in the digital economy and the rollout of the National Broadband Network have been a key focus for RDA Perth over the last twelve months. High speed broadband will provide many opportunities and advantages for West Australians with a number of metropolitan communities now realising that benefit.

To assist local governments broaden their knowledge in this space and to help in their consideration of new digital practices, RDA Perth hosted a forum, with keynote speakers David Bartlett, Digital Futurist and Director of Explor Consulting, Dr Mal Bryce, ICT Strategist and Jim Wyatt from the WA Department of Commerce, all of whom are highly regarded and bring with them years of experience in the development of digital strategies and the transition of digital workplaces.

This initial forum was the catalyst in the formation of a partnership between RDA Perth and the Department of Commerce, Digital Economy, Industry and Innovation Division to deliver further education and capacity building through the development of a Digital Knowledge Series. The Digital Knowledge Series has been designed specifically for local government officers to address knowledge gaps and provide assistance in the adoption of new digital practices both for local government workplaces and in their work to assist local businesses and ratepayers. The Digital Knowledge Series will bring together key speakers to help local governments to:

- Understand, respond to and implement digital practices.
- Develop new business types.
- Consider cloud technologies.
- Attract investment.

The Series began with a module all about the rollout of the National Broadband Network hosted by RDA Perth, the Department of Commerce and NBN Co. Further modules were held in August, September and November and included guest speakers covering topics such as cloud storage, practical applications, mobile technologies and systems and applications already adopted by local government.



Digital Benchmarking Survey RDA WA NETWORK

There is no doubt that smart use of digital technology will improve the way businesses interact with their tech savvy customers.

That is why the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees in Western Australia are working together with local government, business and community organisations to address their digital needs and take advantage of the opportunities available, particularly with the rollout of the National Broadband Network.

The Committees have commissioned a benchmarking survey of information and communication technology (ICT) use by businesses in Western Australia.

The results should provide the best possible picture of what is happening across the state, to help identify industry needs so that appropriate and targeted support through a range of seminars and the like can be offered.

Every participant in the survey will receive a personal report card, providing an industry and regional rating which will also be helpful in determining ICT decision making in the future. The survey will close 5pm on Friday, 20th December 2013 and can be found at <http://www.ictwasurvey.com>

Growing the Digital Wheatbelt RDA WHEATBELT

Launched in August, the Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan aims to identify strategies that will maximise the uptake and utilisation of NBN

infrastructure when it's rolled out in the region and to highlight niche opportunities for a digitally enabled Wheatbelt.

The overall key findings for the Action Plan were to invest in five focus areas:

- **Digital Learning** – overcoming learning gaps with relevant, local demonstration of benefit and outcomes, followed by practical support to get more on-line and develop the regions capabilities.
- **Connectivity and Access** – further research and active problem solving into key areas of service need, technology options and investment capacity will be required to overcome this key business productivity issue.
Leadership and Advocacy – generating a high degree of collaboration and cooperation between all key organisations and amongst communities. A governance model for the action plan has been proposed to achieve this.
- **Building Community and Services on-line** – support key service providers and communities to move on-line to drive and grow demand, and to capture new residents choosing to work, live or invest in the region.
- **Building Digital Innovation** – work with the exemplars and inspire and promote digital technology uptake, and support key sectors where adoption is already high and benefits well understood.

Significant progress has already begun to identify digital leaders in the region and address the knowledge gaps. The momentum gained from launching this Action Plan has also seen the 2014 Wheatbelt Conference, scheduled for 3rd-4th April, embrace a digital theme 'Local community—Global connect'.

Have you done the RDA
WA Digital Survey yet?



DIGITAL TV AND SOCIAL MEDIA



WA DSLO Program successfully signed, sealed and delivered RDA GREAT SOUTHERN & WA NETWORK

In early December 2012 the RDA WA network commenced roll-out of the Digital Switchover Liaison Officer (DSLO) Program, with the \$624,000 project co-ordinated and managed by the team at RDA Great Southern.

The program was an initiative of the Federal Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, designed to assist with the Federal roll-out of Digital TV. It involved grass-roots community liaison by eight Digital Switchover Liaison Officers (DSLOs) working throughout rural and remote WA. Together the RDA WA network and DSLOs directed support, advice and assistance to identified high needs groups - disabled, elderly, low-income earners, remote Indigenous communities and CaLD groups. The program was completed on 30 June 2013, following full switchover on June 25.

Seven of the WA RDA offices worked in partnership on a range of issues affecting residents throughout WA. During the period there was increased cross-collaboration and communication throughout the network, as well as an increased awareness of the network's potential to deliver on similar projects in future. As the program progressed, the network broadly shared anecdotes, strategies, local area knowledge and intelligence. Amongst the DSLOs there were stimulating discussions, lots of laughs, and by the end of the period ... almost a few tears!

The program was enormously beneficial to the RDA WA network, producing a number of positives: enhanced resourced sharing and administrative capacity within the network; an increased amount of community awareness of

subsidies, assistance schemes and RDA; a high degree of flexible management across the different regions, with an adaptive management approach that accommodated differing needs.

The program was also a great opportunity for the WA RDA network to learn and grow as a consortium - we learned to act together, to resolve miscommunication, and how to influence policy changes – where and when possible to do so. We learned the challenges of managing community expectation during the more challenging phases of the roll-out – and as result the network also gained greater insights into advocating for the differing dynamics across regional and remote WA.



Social media photo challenge RDA WHEATBELT

Social media was alive with photos captured from all corners of the Wheatbelt this June.



There were a number of dedicated and eager photographers making a good effort to snap a Wheatbelt picture for every day of our month-long photo challenge.

Each day there was a theme to inspire creative photography and share with fellow Wheatbelt social media users on Twitter and Instagram. For those already using social media and want to keep up-to-date with what's happening in the Wheatbelt, scan this QR code with your smart device to follow us on Twitter via [@RDAWheatbelt](https://twitter.com/RDAWheatbelt).

Top left: RDA Great Southern Digital Switchover Liaison Officer in Katanning
Centre right: RDA Wheatbelt Instagram #wheatbelt Day 7 theme 'pets'

Top: RDA Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Support and Care Solution/s community consultation
Centre right: RDA Wheatbelt Smiles all round from The MISSYA (Moora Interagency Support and Services for Young Aboriginal mums) project



Social Housing Study RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

RDA Goldfields Esperance has published a report of its Social Housing Study which developed recommendations and proposals that will meet the challenges associated with the provision of social housing and related support services in the region. Social Housing Study: Access to affordable, adaptable and secure housing in the Goldfields Esperance Region provides an analysis of a range of housing data and an up-to-date commentary on both Indigenous and social housing issues specific to the Goldfields Esperance region. The report made five recommendations, for RDA Goldfields Esperance to actively engage the Western Australia State Government to:

- Establish a Goldfields Esperance Housing Reference Group.
- Undertake a comprehensive housing needs assessment.
- Undertake an audit of existing plans and strategies in the context of the housing needs assessment.
- Develop protocols for the provision of temporary and permanent housing associated with resources development and major projects close to, or in, regional communities.
- Formulate an integrated affordable housing plan for the Region.

RDA Goldfields Esperance Chair Julia Shadlow-Bath welcomed the report.

This report is the most recent comprehensive snapshot of social housing needs in the region. However, it points to the lack of data and organisational support available to address the growing need for affordable housing in the region.

Ms Shadlow-Bath said the study showed there was overcrowding in 19% of Indigenous households in the Goldfields Esperance region.

The issue of overcrowding must be addressed if Indigenous health is to be improved. Without additional support from State and Federal government organisations, the region is facing a substantial increase in overcrowding and homelessness in the next 5 to 10 years.

Julia Shadlow-Bath
Chair, RDA Goldfields Esperance



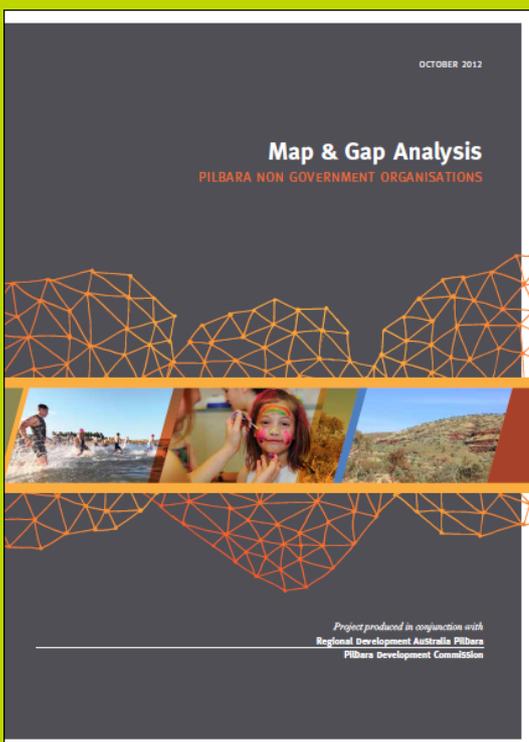
Kicking goals for disadvantaged kids RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA South West (RDASW) established a special fund to support sports participation for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. In line with a view that no child should miss out from active sports due to the lack of family funds, RDASW has supported more than 60 children and enabled them to take part in football, hockey, netball, cricket, basketball, gymnastics and Scouts.

The program is delivered in partnership with local government officers and works with outside agencies as a part of its decision-making process. The program was extended from an initial pilot and is just one of the ways that RDASW stays engaged with communities, flying the flag for the Australian Government.

NGO Map and Gap Analysis RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara (RDAP) in partnership with the Pilbara Development Commission (PDC) has published the findings of the Map and Gap Analysis of the 'not-for-profit' sector undertaken in 2012 by Jill Cameron and Associates.



Non Government Organisations (NGOs) or the 'not-for-profit' sector make a significant contribution to the social and economic wellbeing of Pilbara communities and play an invaluable role in supporting and sustaining communities and reducing economic and social disadvantage.

The project found that the NGO sector in the Pilbara reflects the dynamic and rapidly changing nature of the region and its communities. A committed NGO workforce provides a diverse range of services and programs in towns and communities across the region.

"The report confirms what we know about NGOs and their staff in the Pilbara", said RDA Pilbara CEO Diane Pentz.

"In our many and varied communities, NGOs consistently go the extra mile to make sure people get the support and services they need."

Diane Pentz
Chief Executive Officer, RDA Pilbara

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the sector at the time the study was carried out. It highlights issues that are not new, that affect the capacity of NGOs to deliver appropriate, accessible and reliable services and programs. Issues include affordable housing, recruitment and retention of Pilbara NGO staff and volunteers and the higher cost of doing business in the Pilbara. RDAP and PDC are working together to progress the nine recommendation. These focus on supporting the viability of the sector into the future, improving co-ordination and planning for appropriate services and facilities across the community.



Top left: RDA Pilbara 'Map and Gap Analysis of Pilbara Non Government Organisations' report cover
Bottom right: RDA Wheatbelt The vibrant Northham Races (A Flash of Life Photography)
Centre right: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Geraldton Cathedral

YOUTH

Top left: RDA Wheatbelt Youth Basketball Competition — Experiencing the challenges of Wheelchair Basketball
 Bottom right (top): RDA Wheatbelt Being SunSmart at a Swimming Carnival in the Wheatbelt
 Bottom right (bottom): RDA Wheatbelt Photography Competition 2010 'My best friend'



Connecting with Youth RDA WHEATBELT

The Wheatbelt is an innovative region that supports a vibrant economy, unique natural amenities and is home to many diverse communities. Caring for an aging population and mindful of the enticing urban drift, young people are the lifeblood of our region and future. In 2011 the percentage of the population aged between 15 and 34 was much lower for the Wheatbelt (19.7%) than Western Australia (28.2%) as a whole. These statistics support the perception that younger people leave smaller Wheatbelt communities in favour of larger urban and metropolitan centres for education, employment and recreational opportunities.

Responding proactively to engage with and support young people in our region, RDA Wheatbelt currently delivers two youth focused programs:

- Youth Connections, which is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education aimed at supporting disengaged youth to complete their education or find employment.
- Wheatbelt Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) team and network which is an initiative of our organisation aimed at developing and encouraging the young people of our region to contribute to their communities.

“Today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders therefore we need to see they have the opportunities through support from Youth Connections to remain in the Wheatbelt and grow.”

Cynthia McMorran
Chair RDA Wheatbelt

Building upon the strong foundation and collaborative focus that our Youth Connections program has established in the youth community, RDA Wheatbelt has recently completed a Wheatbelt Youth Strategy. The strategy is based upon four priority areas identified via a series of subregional youth network meetings in April and May 2012. Both young people and key youth community stakeholders confirmed previously identified youth specific issues and barriers and collectively created solutions to address them.

“We need people understanding this from a youth perspective and finding out from youth who see it first hand is really a smart way to improve services.”

Karlee, participant at the WA Youth Roundtable

With the region spanning 154,862 square kilometres, the diversity of the Wheatbelt is as extensive as its geographical borders, highlighting the importance of effective collaboration. The principal aim of the Wheatbelt Youth Strategy is to ensure that the key youth stakeholders in the region have a common focus for implementing initiatives that will contribute to improving opportunities and the wellbeing of youth.

“All Wheatbelt young people matter - to themselves, to the community - now and into the future” Wheatbelt Youth Strategy Vision.



Developing future leaders RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Ten future leaders from Esperance have been participating in an elite leadership program.

The Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI), in conjunction with various regional partners including RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE), is part way through an eight-month program which aims to cultivate leaders of the future.

The program looks at different development opportunities each month, including mentoring, public speaking, team management and meeting protocols. The 10 selected participants have come from various business and community backgrounds, and will participate in training sessions each month until November 2013.

RDAGE Chairperson Julia Shadlow-Bath said RDAGE was delighted to contribute to such a worthy program.

Identifying leaders in our community is critical to the long term success, and long term viability of our region. This leadership program will play a major role in ensuring we have the right people with the right skills, in leadership positions within the community. A place is only as good as its people, and we must invest in our people to ensure our communities are the best they can be, now and into the future.

Ms Shadlow-Bath said one of RDAGE's key priorities was to enhance industry resilience and innovation.

"Through our investment in this program we are assisting in building community and industry resilience and developing leaders who will take our region to the next level, in terms of both industry and community development."

She said RDAGE would continue to explore new opportunities in partnership with the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and would contribute to future events with the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Hearing issues impacting on learning RDA KIMBERLEY

Most of us take our hearing for granted and believe that others hear the same things we do. For many people, particularly children, this may not be true. RDA Kimberley teamed with Anna Wyatt Regional Educations Skills Job Coordinator (DEEWR), and Ann Jacobs to present information to address the issue of ear disease and hearing loss in the region. Ann Jacobs is an expert in the area of hearing loss and its impact of life opportunities found time in her busy schedule to spend over a week visiting remote locations to reach into communities to spread the word about the impact of conductive hearing loss resulting from *Otitis Media*.

Workshops were held across five of the six main Kimberley towns in June and included representatives from early childhood and childcare, schooling, training and health providers, government and non-government organisations, community members and employers. A number of key strategies to assist with the provision of effective learning programs have already been developed. One strategy that was demonstrated during the presentations was what is called 'Field Free systems'. These amplification systems are being utilised in many Kimberley schools to assist children with conductive hearing loss.



Transforming education RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA South West is a member of the Capes Higher Education Taskforce which is looking at building a case for a multi-education campus engaging South West Institute of Technology, universities and the private sector. RDASW has also been involved in developing new directions for the Margaret River Education Centre which is set to enter into a new era of training delivery. It is hoped that the region's education directions will exploit advantages in tourism, hospitality, environment and FIFO opportunities. [Photo 02: Page 16]

PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING

Bottom right: RDA Perth Making a splash at Point Walter on the Swan Canning River
Opposite: RDA Pilbara 'The Cost of doing Business in the Pilbara' report cover

Esperance hosts WA Coastal Conference RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Stakeholders in WA's coastline gathered in Esperance in early August to attend the biannual WA Coastal Conference. With support from Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE), the conference was hosted by the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI) in partnership with South Coast Natural Resource Management and the Shire of Esperance.

With the theme of Balancing Communities and Coast, the forum provided an opportunity to review regional and statewide coastal planning and management issues. RDAGE Executive Office Carol Mann said the conference provided a fantastic tourism and promotional opportunity for the Esperance region to showcase its renowned coastal attractions.

“One of our key priorities is to increase the awareness of environmental issues and promote the value of a healthy and valued environment to our region. This conference was the perfect opportunity to promote the Esperance region and its natural environment, to a wide range of stakeholders from across the State.”

Julia Shadlow-Bath
Chair, RDA Goldfields Esperance

Guest presenters at the conference included the Hon. John Day, Minister for Planning, and Professor Lyn Beazley, WA Chief Scientist. Keynote speakers were Professor Barbara Norman, University of Canberra, Dr Gina Newton, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Stuart Nahajski, Landcorp and Dr Geoff Wescott, Deakin University.

The Conference discussed issues including community engagement programs, monitoring marine changes, risk assessment of hazards to coastal development, marine education and coastal farming opportunities. Ms Mann said the conference provided a valuable opportunity for RDAGE to partner with ECCI, and work closely with other regional stakeholders in promoting the natural assets unique to the Esperance region.

Indian Ocean Territories Regional Plan RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

The first Regional Plan for the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) has been finalised and released. This plan will be used as a comprehensive overview of the region by the Federal Government and will guide the allocation of infrastructure funding through the Regional Development Australia Fund. The plan incorporates economic, social and environmental issues that need to be addressed to help strengthen communities.

In late 2011 a draft Indian Ocean Territories Regional Plan was prepared by Regional Development Australia Midwest Gascoyne (RDAMWG) and was distributed to organisations and key stakeholders in the community for feedback. Formal feedback on the draft report was received via a community engagement process undertaken by Sue Howard who commenced as the Community Engagement Officer for Indian Ocean Territories Regional Plan on 21 May – September 2012. At the conclusion of the engagement process, a summary of the key themes was prepared; these themes provided the basis for the strategic directions and priorities in the plan.

The plan reviews the community aspirations gleaned via consultation with the local communities and key stakeholders, through a thorough analysis of previously produced key plans and strategies. What emerges is a desire to establish a community, society, business and natural environment with the following characteristics:

- Healthy, cohesive, resilient communities.
- Diverse and sustainable economies.
- Supported by a competent local workforce.
- Protected natural environment, sustainable practices and a capacity to respond to climate change.
- Effective government and administration



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Regional Development Hub RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

RDA Midwest Gascoyne (RDAMWG) is set to benefit from a strengthening partnership with the Midwest and Gascoyne development Commissions RDA MWG has joined the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC) under the same roof at Geraldton's Foreshore Business Centre creating a coordinated location for regional development. The arrangement consolidates the strategic alliance between the two organisations and builds strong partnership opportunities for the region.

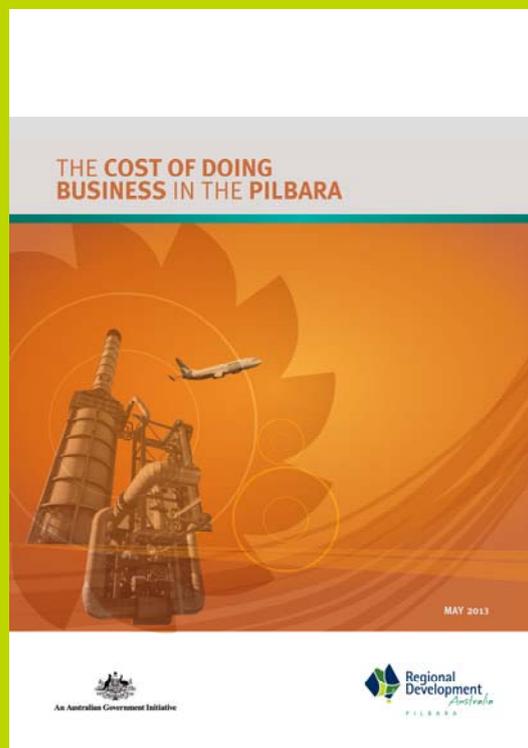
The MWDC is one of nine commissions in Western Australia and is responsible to the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Regional Development. MWDC works to promote the sustainable development of the Mid West region by managing and supporting a number of socioeconomic and community based projects. In a similar approach the RDAMWG is sharing office space with the Gascoyne Development Commission in Carnarvon, where RDAMWG has a part time officer to enhance community engagement in the Gascoyne.

Cost of doing business in the Pilbara RDA PILBARA

RDA Pilbara (RDAP) contracted an economist to profile the cost of doing business in each major centre in the Region, namely Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman and Onslow. The Report scope was expanded to capture the cost to businesses, principally Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), as well as the NGO sector given RDAP's priority in building resilient economies and the impediment of the high cost structure in the Pilbara to business development, sustainability and economic diversification. The report notes that the Pilbara has the lowest number of businesses in Western Australia by a substantial margin.

The purpose of the report is to inform planning and operations by businesses and NGOs by capturing prevailing and future costs as well as government agencies so policy adjustments can be effected to account for those costs. Perth is used as the primary comparator for benchmarking, because it has a high cost structure compared to some other regions in the State and Australia.

The Report concludes by providing a percentage per annum and index of major cost items for each Pilbara town to 2015, applying cost multipliers to the data to establish the actual price per unit (i.e. electricity, water, etc) in the Pilbara compared to Perth. The multipliers are used to develop an illustrative budget of a service type, with the Report concluding that the cost of operating a business is 124 times higher than a comparable business in Perth, hence the struggle for businesses to survive. The assessment excludes cost items such as training, staff turnover, purchase of rental or housing for staff.



Employers in Control RDA SOUTH WEST

RDA South West hosts a Regional Education Skills Jobs Co-ordinator on behalf of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. Combining their skills and knowledge, officers delivered an 'Employers in Control' conference on government jobs programs and initiatives, explaining the opportunities available to employers. A booklet was also produced describing how the various programs work and how to access them.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

State of the Environment Report RDA PILBARA

The 'Pilbara State of the Environment Report' summarises the environmental resources of the Pilbara, through examination of the environmental themes of air, water, land, biodiversity, coasts, marine environment, heritage and built environment, in order to define the drivers of change; pressures or likely impacts on the environment; current management initiatives; and future outlooks.

The Report's purpose is firstly to provide decision makers with access to current relevant information for improved understanding and effective management of critical elements of the Pilbara's environmental and cultural systems and secondly as an awareness tool for the community to help people and organisations reduce negative environmental impacts. The report determines the Pilbara environment as generally healthy but cites a number of issues that need to be actively monitored to facilitate the identification of appropriate remedial action.

2013 Goodness Festival RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

RDAMWG partnered with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council to deliver the 2013 Goodness Festival. The event provided local sustainable businesses a medium to showcase their goods, services and practices to the community. Conversely, the Goodness Festival provided an opportunity for all community members to participate in science events and activities through increased awareness of current and proposed sustainability practices. The event also successfully fostered partnerships between the community, government, research organisations and industry, as well as providing networking and training opportunities for local scientists in science communication. This year the Goodness Festival generated exceptional media awareness for local sustainability leaders, science and research.

The positive momentum created by the event promoted entrepreneurship, creativity and commercialisation to the business community, whilst building an ongoing culture to harness science to stimulate, amaze and inspire people to engage.

Partnership boosts environmental focus RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Environmental issues on the south coast will more attention in the future as a result of an innovation partnership between Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) and South Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM).

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed by both organisations that will encourage a greater focus on resource sharing and joint programs to benefit the region. The MOU, signed in Esperance in early July, will ensure RDAGE continues to contribute directly to the long-term protection and development of a sustainable natural environment across the region.

RDAGE Executive Officer Carol Mann said one of the organisation's key priorities was to increase awareness of environmental issues, and to promote the value of a healthy environment. She said it was hoped the partnership would encourage further investment and external funding into programs in the region.

This collaboration will benefit both organisations and their stakeholders, and will ensure a greater focus on protecting our region's natural resources, as well as attracting further investment into environmental programs in the future. We understand that harnessing the attributes of our natural environment, and protecting its long term sustainability, are critical to the quality of life in the Goldfield-Esperance region. As such, RDAGE continues to work actively in this area and allocates time and resources to different environment initiatives.

Carol Mann
Executive Officer, RDA Goldfields Esperance

She said governments at all levels were supportive of regional partnerships, and RDAGE hoped to forge more of these arrangements in the future, with the other regional NRM bodies. **[Photo: Page 19]**



Katanning Sheep Saleyards Raising The Bar and The Benefits **RDA GREAT SOUTHERN**

At a total cost of around \$25m this remarkable agricultural project managed by the Shire of Katanning is set to deliver significant benefits to the Shire and throughout the South West region. Made possible with \$7m through RDAF Round 1, \$17m from the State and \$1m from the Shire, Katanning's new saleyard facility is on target to open in early 2014 and will set the benchmark for the most modern contemporary design for saleyards in the country.

RDA Great Southern Executive Officer Simon Lyas who has assisted on the project steering committee said the project has been a logistics and design challenge but a very satisfying project demonstrating excellent project management by the Shire of Katanning and a testing ground for innovation in technical and engineering problem solving.

The Katanning Saleyards project is a great example of all 3 levels of government working together to establish and renewing essential infrastructure in the agricultural sector, one of the key economic drivers in the Great Southern and many other areas of the State.

Simon Lyas
Executive Officer, RDA Great Southern

The new facility has been designed with the best animal welfare practices in Australia and boasts one of the best wastewater treatment systems for this type of facility anywhere; delivering significant environmental and community benefits through innovative and practical design. With a capacity to process up to 70,000 sheep in any one day the facility which has a massive water catchment roof covering 44,000sqm, will serve the industry for many years in the future and ensure the continuation of sheep sales in Katanning since the first saleyards were built in 1922.

Growing agricultural markets **RDA SOUTH WEST**

Partnering the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and the South West Development Commission, RDA South West is embarking on a ground-breaking regional agriculture strategy. This will be the first of its kind and will encompass all areas of agriculture, with a focus on expanding export markets from a base of more than \$620m, branding the region, water for agriculture, overcoming barriers and taking advantage of the global megatrends identified by CSIRO.

The work will also enjoy the benefits of a convergence of opportunities to work with the new Australian Government priorities, State Government 'Seizing the Opportunities' program and local planning initiatives which all link in with the region's comparative advantage as identified in the SW Blueprint.

Top: RDA Great Southern The expansive roof and waste water recycling ponds of the new Katanning Sheep Saleyards

STATE-WIDE SNAPSHOTS

01: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Batavia longboat replica on Geraldton Marina
 02: RDA South West Apprentice Ryan Warrington at Bunbury City Glass
 03: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Permaculture Nursery



01



02



03

04: RDA Wheatbelt Heritage at Westonia
 05: RDA Mid West Gascoyne HMAS Sydney II Memorial featuring 645 seagulls representing the men lost at sea
 06: RDA Mid West Gascoyne Backpackers soaking up the sun
 07: RDA Perth Retail therapy in Perth CBD's London Court



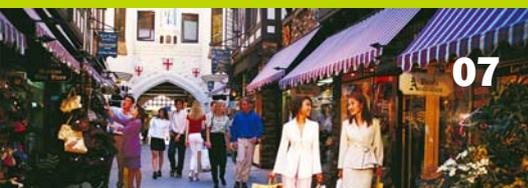
04



05



06



07

RDA FUND PROJECTS

ROUND 1

Katanning Regional Sheep Saleyards Shire of Katanning

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

The project will relocate and construct a new state-of-the-art sheep saleyards in Katanning to support improved compliance with OH&S regulations, environmental legislation and animal welfare regulations.

Kimberley Land Council Office Project Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal

Corporation

RDA KIMBERLEY

The project will construct a purpose built facility for the Kimberley Land Council, to house all employees in the one location and allow the council's work to expand. The project will also provide opportunities to indigenous communities for training in the construction industry and creation of employment.

Baldivis Library and Community Centre City of Rockingham

RDA PERTH

The project will construct a library and community centre within the Baldivis Town Centre. The centre will provide amenities to support the local community, including a contemporary library encompassing literature, multimedia collections, e-services, e-training areas, early childhood and youth activity areas, study and outdoor reading spaces, staff amenities, storage and customer service.

Karratha Leisure Complex

Shire of Roebourne

RDA PILBARA

The new Karratha Leisure Complex (KLC) will be a multi-purpose sporting, aquatic and recreation facility that will also provide critical emergency evacuation and welfare facilities for the region. The facility will improve community access to sporting facilities.



ROUND 2

Training and Ambulance Centre St John Ambulance Australia (WA) Inc.

RDA KIMBERLEY

The project is the construction of the North West Regional Office, Regional Training Centre and relocation of the existing Broome Ambulance Sub Centre to land allocated by the Shire of Broome. The building has now been completed and will be officially opened on 22nd November 2013.



West End Recreation and Entertainment Precinct Revitalisation

City of Geraldton-Greenough

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

The Foreshore, an iconic attraction for tourists and treasured by local residents, has transformed Geraldton. This project will extend the foreshore and revitalise the underutilised West End, reducing pressure on the existing amenities, provide recreation and cultural venues.

Stage 2 Carnarvon Flood Mitigation Works

Shire of Carnarvon

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

Carnarvon Flood Mitigation Works will see construction of a series of integrated levees and give the town the security needed to expand its horticulture and urban areas. It will allow a substantial increase in its population, and secure the town's long term future.

Margaret River Surfers Point Precinct Redevelopment

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

RDA SOUTH WEST

The redevelopment of the Surfers Point Precinct at Margaret River, through infrastructure upgrades, provides an opportunity to greatly improve the key coastal recreation area for local residents, the broader community and the large numbers of tourists that visit the area.

Top right: RDA Kimberley St John Ambulance Centre to cater to the growing future requirements for paramedics and ambulance services
Bottom left: RDA Wheatbelt Hip-hop dancers the 'Urban Youth Crew' give performance to local member, Mia Davies MLA

RDA FUND PROJECTS

ROUND 3

Esperance Waterfront - Sustainable Infrastructure
Shire of Esperance

RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

This project will involve upgrading community infrastructure including lighting and outdoor showers at the Esperance Waterfront, showcasing renewable energy and sustainable water and waste management technologies.

Denmark Riverside Club Inc - Stage 1
Shire of Denmark

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

A new clubhouse, external viewing areas, walkways and sporting, social, training and storage facilities will be constructed as part of this project.

Kimberley Group Training Skills Centre
Kimberley Group Training Inc

RDA KIMBERLEY

This project will provide a facility to support training services for people in the Kununurra area, focusing on industry skills and integrated literacy and numeracy development.

Direction Island HMAS Sydney and SMS Emden Centenary Gazebo
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Shire Council

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

The Interpretative Gazebo will be a permanent display of the historical account of the naval battle between the Sydney and Emden, and will be the first stage of interpretative signage and walk trails on Direction Island.

Construction of the Christmas Island Senior Citizens Centre
Shire of Christmas Island

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

The construction of the first Christmas Island Senior Citizens Centre will provide increased indoor community meeting and recreational space, which will support the growing number of senior citizens who now reside on Christmas Island.

Pinjarra Community Centre
Shire of Murray

RDA PEEL

This project will build a new multi-use facility that will serve as a community centre for Pinjarra, and will be co-tenanted by Pinjarra Bowls Club and Peel Home Community Care.

Spinifex Hill Art Studio - Media Studio and Feature Walkway

Form Contemporary Craft and Design Inc

RDA PILBARA

This project will build a 3D media studio and feature walkway as part of the Spinifex Hill Art Studio, which is a new Indigenous art studio complex in South Hedland.

Civic Infrastructure Wellbeing Project
Shire of Roebourne

RDA PILBARA

This project will construct accessible and connected infrastructure for all ages and abilities, including the renewal of two playgrounds, the installation of a new all-ages playground, and a new shade structure.

Busselton Regional Airport Terminal Expansion Project, Stage 1b

City of Busselton

RDA SOUTH WEST

This project will support the first stage of the terminal expansion, providing new areas for baggage pickup, departure lounge, security screening point and public facilities.

Boyup Brook Music Park Infrastructure
Country Music Club of Boyup Brook WA Inc

RDA SOUTH WEST

This project will redevelop the Boyup Brook Music Park by constructing a larger green room and kitchenette, additions, stairs, stage wings, shades and permanent perimeter fencing. [Photo: Page 19]

Multi-Purpose Community Health Centre
Shire of Chittering

RDA WHEATBELT

The Community Centre will provide a multi-purpose community health centre in which to co-locate government and private community medical services. The new facilities will ensure that an appropriate standard of health services is retained within the region and will encourage new agencies and providers to offer health services to the region.

Corrigin Recreation and Events Centre
Shire of Corrigin

RDA WHEATBELT

This project will develop a regional Recreation and Events Centre at Corrigin, including constructing a squash court, change rooms, multipurpose rooms, meeting rooms, a gym, and a large kitchen and reception area.

RDA FUND PROJECTS



ROUND 4

Great Southern Centennial Park City of Albany

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

This project will create a major sporting complex for both elite and community use in Albany's Great Southern Centennial Park. The centrepiece will be a Sporting and Event Arena featuring a premium AFL oval with lighting and facilities appropriate for State, national and international competitions and events. The grandstand will include a multipurpose hall/function room, outdoor entertainment areas and many other ancillary features to suit a venue of this standard. The complex will also feature a new AFL-sized secondary oval, 11 soccer fields, five cricket pitches, a new hockey field and new community parkland area. Lighting upgrades throughout the park will cater for sports training needs and there will be pedestrian and cycle paths, vehicle access and parking, signage and artworks.

Sounness Park Community Recreation Development

Shire of Plantagenet

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

This project will co-locate six community sport and recreation codes in the Shire of Plantagenet into one facility at Mount Barker in Western Australia. It will see the construction of stages two and three of a larger redevelopment project, and will involve the installation of a new synthetic hockey pitch with competition-standard lighting, a new

cricket and soccer oval, and cricket nets. This project will also see improved water management and the construction of a large capacity waste/storm water dam that will service the reticulation system that will be integrated into the playing fields.

Royal Flying Doctor Service-Base Broome Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (Western Operations)

RDA KIMBERLEY

This project will construct purpose-built aero-medical facilities at Broome Airport for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to provide health services to even the most remote parts of the Kimberley Region. Major elements of the works will be two hangars to house up to four aircraft, a patient transfer centre with resuscitation and treatment facilities, and offices for a base manager, six medical officers, seven flight nurses, seven pilots and administrative staff as required. Work areas for charging and maintaining portable medical equipment, clinic consulting rooms and secure undercover parking will also be built.

Development of the Ningaloo Cultural Centre

Shire of Exmouth

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

This project will build a 4700 square metre facility, named after the Heritage Listed Ningaloo Reef, to serve the needs of the Exmouth community and tourists as well as researchers and education providers. Of the five elements of the building, the largest will be a gallery and exhibition space which will house industry, marine and terrestrial exhibitions, a summit climb and gallery leading out to a retail area. A Visitor Centre will include a cafe, administration offices, some short term office or retail rooms and supporting amenities, and storage areas.

Regional Physical Activity and Education Centre at Cockburn Central West

City of Cockburn

RDA PERTH

The City of Cockburn, Fremantle Dockers Football Club and Curtin University will develop a new regional integrated community sport, recreation and education precinct, located at Cockburn Central West in the City of Cockburn. The focal point of the precinct will be the development of a regional aquatic and recreation centre.

Top left (top): RDA South West Boyup Brook Music Park Infrastructure
Top left (bottom): RDA Goldfields Esperance Julia Shallow-Bath and Bill Hollingworth sign MOU

RDA CONTACTS

RDA KIMBERLEY

Chris Mitchell
www.rdakimberley.com.au
Ph: (08) 9192 2450
Email: eo@rdakimberley.com.au

RDA PILBARA

Diane Pentz
www.rdapilbara.org.au
Ph: (08) 9144 0651
Email: administration@rdapilbara.org.au

RDA MID WEST GASCOYNE

Alan Bradley
www.rdamwg.com.au
Ph: (08) 9964 5757
Email: eo@rdamwg.com.au

RDA WHEATBELT

Rebekah Burges
www.rdawheatbelt.com.au
Ph: (08) 9575 1888
Email: rebekah.burges@rdawheatbelt.com.au

RDA PERTH

Colleen Yates
www.rdaperth.com.au
Ph: (08) 9371 5525
Email: eo@rdaperth.com.au

RDA PEEL

John Lambrecht
www.rdapeel.org.au
Ph: (08) 9586 3400
Email: john.lambrecht@rdapeel.org.au

RDA SOUTH WEST

Charles Jenkinson
www.rdasouthwest.com.au
Ph: (08) 9721 1111
Email: Charles.Jenkinson@rdasouthwest.com.au

RDA GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Carol Mann
www.rdage.com.au
Ph: (08) 9091 6051
Email: eo@rdage.com.au

RDA GREAT SOUTHERN

Simon Lyas
www.rdagreatsouthern.com.au
Ph: (08) 9842 5800
Email: eo@RDAGreatsouthern.com.au

Local people developing local solutions to local issues across Western Australia