



Regional Development *Australia*

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE



ANNUAL REPORT
2016-17

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Chairperson Report

During 2016-2017 Regional Development Australia Goldfields-Esperance (RDAGE) staff and committee members worked assiduously to ensure that the issues, challenges and prospects impacting the region were captured and incorporated into strategic conversations at all levels of government.

The oft mentioned themes of disruption and innovation abounded globally and the Goldfields Esperance region of 771,276 square kilometres was not immune to its impact.

The collaborative effect of a strong RDAGE Board and management worked with our stakeholders at a regional level to maintain core business while preparing for opportunities that could drive economic development.

I am particularly proud of RDAGE's commitment to being the principal partner in not one but two Women's Leadership Forums (WLF) in Kalgoorlie. While both events fell within the same financial year, high-level speakers were secured, energetic themes emerged and each event was enthusiastically embraced by hundreds of women from throughout the region.

In addition, RDAGE partnered with Curtin Centre for Entrepreneurship to develop our local businesses and their hardworking leaders. As a globally ranked university, Curtin has a strong footprint in the Goldfields Esperance region and it was a seminal moment to have their innovative program available on our doorstep.

RDAGE also continued our ongoing support to prioritise Arts and Culture Development, participate in National Broadband Network local consultations and many other regional forums associated with the Chambers of Commerce, local government and the not for profit sector.

We, of course, remain committed to seeing the wonderful Outback Way sealed and continue to champion at every opportunity this critical piece of regional infrastructure. during February RDAGE travelled to Canberra and met with Ministers and other key Members of Parliament to support the Regional Shires and Committee members who make up the "Friends of the Outback Way". Sealing this road will provide the Goldfields Esperance region with tourism, mining, transport and other improved business opportunities that will support economic growth and development that address community capacity.

Julia Shadlow-Bath
Chairperson

Executive Officer Report

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) has enjoyed a number of key achievements in the past year, addressing the regional priority outcomes identified from the Goldfields Regional Investment Blueprint.

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) conducted a variety of activities during 2016-2017 in support of the development of the Goldfields-Esperance region.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Enabling Building Better Regions Fund, RDAGE:

- Developed and circulated a funding manual to assist project proponents in applying for BBRF funding.
- Conducted meetings with project proponents applying for BBRF funding.
- Funded expert assistance to project-ready applicants for BBRF funding.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Arts and Culture Development, RDAGE:

- Provided the local funding component in support of West Australian Music's (WAM) *Demos of the Northern Goldfields* program.
- Provided the local funding component in support of Artgold's *Centre for Excellence in Performing Arts*.
- Support for ArtGold's *Goldfields-Esperance Arts and Culture Trail* grant application.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Digital Business and Innovation, RDAGE:

- Promoted and participated in National Broadband Network local consultations and forums.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Community Capacity, RDAGE:

- Funded and co-ordinated the delivery of two community building workshops across the region.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Leadership development, RDAGE:

- Sponsored the inaugural *Women's Leadership Forum* (WLF) in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (principal partner) and the second WLF which both fell in the same financial year due to a change in event date.

To address the regional priority outcome of: Business and Entrepreneurship, RDAGE:

- Sponsored the *Over the Horizon Forum* to support business planning and development (Esperance).
- Sponsored the *2016 Goldfields Business and Employee Awards* (Kalgoorlie-Boulder) and the *Business Excellence Awards* (Esperance).
- Formed a partnership with *Curtin University's Centre for Entrepreneurship*.

Other Achievements

- RDAGE representatives participated in a delegation in February 2017 to Canberra with Australian Government Ministers, advisers and/or representatives, to address the issues affecting the region.
- RDAGE made a submission to the *Regional Development and Decentralisation Inquiry*.
- A new Business Plan for 2016-17 was developed.
- RDAGE was represented on the *Growing Kalgoorlie-Boulder Governance Group (GPP)* and participated in meetings.

Continuing challenge

The Goldfields-Esperance region is the largest RDA region in Western Australia, covering an area of 771,276 square kilometres which is three times the size of the State of Victoria. Ensuring effective consultation with regional stakeholders is challenging as the distance from Warburton in the north-east and Ravensthorpe in the south-west of the region, is over 1,500 kilometres.

The ability of RDA Goldfields Esperance staff to undertake significant actions across the immense distances and the wide scope of issues in the region is limited, as is the number of specific actions able to be taken forward by the Committee.

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. Undertaking this role addresses the regional priority outcome of: **Welcome Migrants**

RDA Goldfields Esperance certified forty-two (42) RSMS applications in 2016-2017. The administration fee for certification is \$440 (inc. GST), giving RDAGE an income of \$18,480.00 for the 2016-2017 financial year.

Overview of Regional Development Australia

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.

The aims of the RDA network are to bring together all levels of government to enhance the growth and development of regional Australia and to provide a strategic framework for economic growth in each region.

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 five key Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Regional Plan

A current three to five year Regional Plan that focuses on the economic development of the Goldfields-Esperance region. The plan must take into account any relevant Commonwealth, state, territory and local government plans.

Outcome 2: Critical issues

Advice to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on critical issues affecting the Goldfields-Esperance region.

Outcome 3: Priority activities

Advice to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on priority activities that will drive regional economic development, on future economic opportunities and on the Goldfields-Esperance region's comparative advantages, based on consultation and engagement with community leaders.

Outcome 4: Project proposals

Assistance to local community stakeholders in order for them to develop project proposals; and referral of stakeholders to appropriate public and/or private funding sources - including the Building Better Regions Fund

Outcome 5: Promote Australian Government Programs

Increased awareness of Australian Government programs in the Goldfields-Esperance region.

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 2016-2017 the RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee comprised:

Position on RDAGE Board	Name	Location	Term Expires
Chairperson	Julia Shadlow-Bath	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	31 December 2017
Deputy Chairperson	Holly Phillips	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Resigned 2016
Treasurer	Victoria (Tori) Castledine	Esperance	31 December 2017
Secretary	Darren Forster	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Resigned 2016
Committee member	Patrick Hill	Laverton	28 February 2018
Committee member	Shayne Flanagan	Esperance	31 May 2018
Committee member	Mandy Reidy	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	31 December 2017
Committee member	Matthew Devenish	Esperance	31 December 2017
Committee member	Laura Dwyer	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	31 December 2017

In 2016-2017 the RDA Goldfields Esperance staff comprised:

Position Held	Name	Start/End Date	Full/Part Time
Executive Officer Manages the organisation and services the RDAGE committee.	Carol Mann	19/07/10 - September 2016	Full Time
Finance Officer Provides administrative and financial support	Carla Dillon	08/02/11 - September 2016	Part Time
Executive Officer Manages the organisation and services the RDAGE committee.	Holly Phillips	December 2016 - March 2017	Full Time
Contract Executive Management	Puzzle Consulting	April 2017 - current	Contract
Contract Finance Management	Business Precision	October 2016 - current	Contract

Board Meetings

Date	Topic	Location
12 August 2016	General Meeting	Kambalda
14 October 2016	General Meeting and AGM	Kalgoorlie-Boulder
9 December 2016	General Meeting	Esperance
17 March 2017	General Meeting	Kalgoorlie-Boulder
12 May 2017	General Meeting	Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Workshop and Consultations

Community Building

Esperance

This training workshop provided an exclusive learning experience that brought participants to the most current thinking and resources from the emerging field of Asset Based, Community Driven philosophies and methodologies.

WA North Asia Free Trade Agreement Access Program

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Designed to help WA regional businesses take advantage of the China, Korea and Japan Free Trade Agreements.

METS Ignited

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

METS Ignited hosted a free information session in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on accessing the new round of the \$15.6million *METS Ignited Project Funds*. The Project Fund is 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.

2016 and 2017 Women's Leadership Forum

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

RDA Goldfields Esperance is a key sponsor of the inaugural *Women's Leadership Forum* which will be held in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on Saturday 30 July 2016. Guest speakers included: Turia Pitt, Kyra Bonney, Nicolle Jenkins and the Hon. Liza Harvey MLA. The forum was emceed by Kitty Prodonovich and featured local speakers such as Daphne Hahn, Fleur McDonald, Alicia Verbeeten and Chelsea Hunter.

2016 SEGRA

Albany

RDAGE Committee members attended the *SEGRA conference* in Albany in October 2016. The conference included many interesting and challenging keynote speakers and workshop sessions. RDAGE Committee member and well-known local Patrick Hill (Shire President of Laverton and Chair of the Outback Highway Development Council) presented at *SEGRA*.

RDA National Forum

Albany

The Chair of RDAGE and Acting EO attended the *RDA National Forum* to network and engage with RDA's from across Australia. The Forum was a good opportunity to learn more about projects being run by other RDA's and also find out further information regarding the Federal Government review of RDA's.

Over the Horizon

Sponsor of the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry *2017 Over the Horizon Forum* held on 6th April 2017. The event showcased a variety of local businesses and entrepreneurs who are using innovative technology and creative business solutions to benefit their businesses and support economic growth and development in the region.

What's Down the Track

RDAGE joined more than 250 participants at the annual *What's Down the Track Forum* in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on 17 November 2016. 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.

BBRF Information Session

In addition to providing detailed guidance to potential BBRF applicants, the information session provided an opportunity for people from regional and remote communities to get together and network.

Publicity and Promotions

Newsletters

The RDAGE publishes a quarterly newsletter which is sent via an email database to:

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

Newspaper Articles & Publicity

The RDAGE had several newspaper articles published in the Kalgoorlie Miner and Esperance Express in the 2016-2017 financial year.