



## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) COMMITTEES**

### **Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees**

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of 52 Committees and the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation 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 with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize economic opportunities and attract investment.

### **Changes to the RDA Committees role**

The changes to the RDA role will build on the positive impact that RDA Committees are making right across regional Australia. These changes will benefit regional businesses and communities by:

- Providing greater role clarity through a streamlined Charter and a focus on growing strong and confident regional economies
- Changing the role of Capital City RDA Committees to support economic development of regions by advocating for pro-regional policy, planning and decentralisation opportunities, influencing state capitals and city based businesses on regional issues
- Implementing strategic plans to help align effort across government to identify key regional priorities and catalytic project to support economic growth of regions
- Extending the term of the funding agreement from 3 to 4 ½ years to provide a sustainable medium term framework
- Reintroduction of indexation in line with the RDA program appropriation.

### **RDA Charter**

The RDA Charter outlines the role and expectations of the Australian Government to the future activities of the RDA Committees. The Charter has four elements:

- Facilitation of regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs



- Promotion of greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research
- Improved Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues
- Coordination of the development of a strategic plan, or working with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

### **What do RDAs do?**

RDA Committees have access to strong grass roots networks and provide a vital link between communities, regional stakeholders and governments. RDAs work closely with the three levels of government, industry, academia, businesses and communities and:

- Collaborate with stakeholders to identify economic opportunities and leverage investment
- Connect business and industry sectors with international trade partners, markets and investors
- Work with stakeholders to develop project proposals that contribute to creating jobs and attracting investment
- Promote Australian Government policy and program initiatives to stakeholders and communities
- Provide information on their region's activities and competitive advantages to governments, industry, business and community sectors
- Provide intel to Australian Government on the 'health' of their region.

### **How RDA Committees can help you**

RDA Committees provide:

- Valuable insights on the economic development challenges and opportunities of our regions, including the needs of regional businesses.
- Strong grass-root connections to bring stakeholders together to focus on regional outcomes.
- Linkages between communities, regional stakeholders and governments, and provide real time advice on the critical regional development issues, opportunities and challenges in our regions.