



# Regional Development *Australia*

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE



Regional Development Australia  
Goldfields Esperance Incorporated

**2011-2012**

# Annual Report



An Australian Government Initiative

# Contents

<b>Chairman’s Report</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Officer’s Report</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Overview of Regional Development Australia</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee &amp; Staff</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Training &amp; Development</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Workshop &amp; Consultations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Publicity &amp; Promotions</b> .....	<b>18</b>



# Chairman's Report

I would like to commence this report with a sincere thank you to all Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) Board Members and to our Executive Officer, Carol and Administration Officer Carla.

Your efforts in supporting RDAGE, the Goldfields-Esperance region, your local communities and key regional initiatives have been amazing. In addition, your support to me, as Chairperson of the RDAGE has been awesome and I have been privileged to work with you all and to have had you all supporting the RDAGE.

As I am resigning as Chairperson of the RDAGE, I make the following comments partially as a précis of the activities of the RDAGE over the last twelve months, and partially to identify the key issues that remain as 'the elephants in the room' that, in my opinion, need to be addressed.

It has been obvious that there remains some frustration and in some cases, a lack of clear direction as to the future work and direction of the RDAGE. I encourage Board Members and staff alike, to continue to develop the *Goldfields Esperance Strategic Development Plan* and to continue to work with our key regional stakeholders to advocate, lobby and support key regional initiatives and ideas. This Plan will be the blueprint for the region, and will be further supported and refined as government projects such as the Regional Planning Framework, the regional investment Blueprint and the Local Government Strategic Community Plans are completed. I encourage the Board to take its lead from these documents and focus on a number of key initiatives as your priority for the next twelve months.

Further work will be required by the Board to clearly articulate the projects and issues that you are going to commit your energy and resources to. The concept of 'portfolios' for Board Members has been floated a few times and perhaps with the recruitment process of additional Board Members, this may become a do-able task.

The ongoing commitment to the activities and business of the Board is an area that Board Members need to reflect upon. The combination of carrying some vacant Board positions and the inability of some Board Members to commit to a reasonable level of Board involvement has, to a degree, curtailed the effectiveness of the Board.

The nuances of relationships with key stakeholders require some extra energy be directed into this area. The continued uncertainty surrounding the future of the RDA network (in Western Australia) does not engender the confidence of the Board to apply further energy into projects and initiatives. Further, this issue also leaves our Staff with a lack of clarity as to their future. Funding contracts for the RDA network are short enough to trigger uncertainty for staff and the future direction of the RDA in WA needs to be resolved so that good staff are not lost from the network.

Our region will always provide some challenges in working with key stakeholders due to the geographic separation of our communities and the diversity (from remote indigenous settlements to mining to agriculture) of our region. We have been very fortunate to develop a good relationship with the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) in preparing the first two versions of the Strategic Development Plan.

To cement these relationships, further joint meetings may be required to continue the dialogue of ensuring we are all 'on the same page'.

Having a new Chairperson appointed to RDAGE might assist in providing a fresh start to bring the organisations together on a regular basis. Having a Chair that is able to allocate more of their time to attend other stakeholder's meetings may also assist in this regard.

2013 will see Western Australia affected by three election processes: a State election in March; a Federal election to be held on/before 30th November; and, Local Governments going to the polls on 19th October. Preparing a 'regional' position for these elections is paramount and the RDAGE might choose to work with its key stakeholders to form a Goldfields Esperance position paper to be put to candidates at all three levels of Government.



The last twelve months has seen a significant amount of work still being undertaken by the RDAGE. Whilst operating with a very small staff, there has been a substantial amount of work achieved. Beside the normal functions of RDA business, which in itself should not be underestimated as to the amount of work to meet compliance standards, a great contribution has been made in the following areas:

- Contributing to the regional Strategic Development Plan
- Capacity building programs in LGA's and not for profit organizations
- The rolling out of the Regional Certifying Body function
- Comments and submissions on discussion papers and Government White papers
- Management and support of the Board and Chair
- NBN workshops
- Carbon Farming Workshops
- Attending WANTAC and EO's meetings
- Attending local and regional meetings.

In closing, I have sincerely enjoyed being provided with the privilege of being the Chairperson of the RDAGE and leave knowing that the Goldfields-Esperance region is going to continue to grow and develop. The region has the resources, capacity and energy to continue to be a major contributor to the State and nation.

My thirteen years in the region has been very rewarding and has provided myself and my family with terrific opportunities at a career level, socially and sporting-wise, and within the community. I wish each one of you the very best for the future and know that you will all continue to contribute to the region in your own way.

Again, I thank you for your support and friendship. I look forward to keeping in touch and watching the Goldfields Esperance region grow.



Mal Osborne  
Chairperson



# Executive Officer's Report

The 2011-2012 year was busy and productive for Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE). One of the major tasks of the year was the review of the *Goldfields Esperance Strategic Development Plan 2011-2021*. The review process examined information contained in the current Plan, firmed up major projects, and identified key priorities to take the Goldfields-Esperance region forward. Key regional stakeholders were invited to contribute to the final document, which was co-signed by the Chairs of RDAGE, the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC), making the document relevant to all three tiers of government.

In early 2012, the RDAGE committee increased in size from seven to twelve members. Minister Crean announced the re-appointment of Malcolm Osborne as Chair, Robert Hicks as Deputy Chair and Keith Adams as committee member. The four new members who were welcomed onto the committee are: Jeff Carter, Patrick Hill, Dale Piercey and Julia Shadlow-Bath.

RDAGE Board members and staff met with the Prime Minister, who visited Esperance in August 2011, and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Anthony Albanese, who attended the *Over the Horizon* forum in March 2012. In October 2011, RDAGE invited the Director of Infrastructure Australia, Michael Deegan, to meet with key stakeholders and industry representatives and to inspect road, rail and port infrastructure. The visit allowed Mr Deegan to gain an understanding of the gap between infrastructure provision and the demands of the expanding resources industry.

Productive partnerships were formed with several key stakeholders in 2011-2012, resulting in the:

- Skills Connect forum (with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations), which provided information about funding opportunities available to business and industry leaders and how to capitalize on these opportunities to grow their enterprises and skill their workforce
- Carbon Farming Workshops (with South Coast NRM), which clarified what carbon farming is, how people can become involved, and explained some of the types of activities that can generate carbon credits
- presentation of information about the NBN/Digital Economy in Kalgoorlie and Esperance (with the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry), which looked at the impact on future service delivery for commerce and industry and essential service delivery for health, education and the environment
- Grant Writing & Management Workshops (with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission), which provided expertise on how to gain funding for significant regional projects.

A capacity building project provided consultants to work with four not-for-profit organisations which service Indigenous people: the Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation (PTAC); Ngunyntju Tjitji Pirni (NTP); Laverton Leonora Cross Cultural Association (LLCCA); and, the Eastern Goldfields YMCA. The organisations were assisted with: improving governance skills, completing infrastructure reports, updating strategic plans, developing project plans, enhancing strategic thinking, and, writing funding proposals.

RDAGE was gazetted as a Regional Certifying Body (RCB) for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) by the Department of Immigration in September 2011. Between October 2011 and June 2012, RDAGE certified 104 applications for skilled migrant workers. The certification process was undertaken by Carla, who very competently took on this role, in addition to her work as Administration and Finance Officer.



Carol Mann  
Executive Officer

# Overview of Regional Development Australia

Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance is part of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Network. RDAGE is a locally managed organization funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

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 role of individual RDA's and the network as a whole is:

## **Advice, consultation and community engagement**

- Consult with regional stakeholders on needs and priorities
- Two-way conduit for information and advice between communities and government
- Engage with all levels of government, regional stakeholders and communities in developing solutions to regional needs and priorities

## **Contribute to regional planning**

- Develop strategic regional plans in collaboration with State and local government agencies and key stakeholders
- Annual reporting against performance indicators
- Annual analysis against a different area of Government policy each year

## **Whole of government activities**

- First point of contact for agency consultations
- A first point of contact for communities for information about Australian Government services and programs
- Contribute to other national agendas from a regional perspective
- Administer third party contracts for other agencies as appropriate

## **Promotion of Government programs**

- Provide information to regional stakeholders about government programs
- Identify potential government programs to support regional projects and initiatives
- Provide advice and assistance with accessing funding from existing programs towards regional projects

## **Community development**

- Act as an advocate for the region
- Build networks and develop leadership within the region
- Broker solution that address regional issues and barriers to development
- Help to broker partnerships to address the needs and aspirations of regional communities

The network will play a key role in ensuring that advice about key issues in the regions is provided to all levels of government.

# RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee & Employees

The RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee is a board of people representing different regional areas and key Stakeholder groups including representatives from local government, partnership bodies, business and industry. During 2011-2012 the RDA Goldfields Esperance Committee comprised:

Position on RDAGE Board	Name	Location	Term Expires
Chairperson	Malcolm (Mal) Osborne	Esperance	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013
Executive Chairperson	Robert Hicks	Kalgoorlie	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013
Executive Committee member	Keith Adams	Kalgoorlie	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013
Committee member	Edward (Ted) English	Esperance	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014
Committee member	Ian Goldfinch	Ravensthorpe	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014
Committee member	Peter Grubb	Esperance	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 (Completed 11.03.2012)
Committee member	Scott Manners	Kalgoorlie	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014
Committee member	Patrick Hill	Laverton	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
Committee member	Jeffrey (Jeff) Carter	Leonora	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
Committee member	Dale Piercey	Esperance	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
Committee member	Julia Shadlow-Bath	Kalgoorlie	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
Committee member	Vacancy	To be determined	To be determined

In 2011-2012 the RDA Goldfields Esperance staff comprised:

Position Held	Name	Role	Start Date	Full/Part Time
Executive Officer	Carol Mann	Manages the organisation and services the RDAGE committee.	19/07/10 - current	Full Time
Finance Officer	Carla Dillon	Provides administrative and financial support.	08/02/11 - current	Part Time

## Board Meetings

Date	Topic	Guest Speaker	Location	Participants
08/07/11	RDAGE Board Meeting		By telephone at Shire of Esperance & RDAGE office Kalgoorlie	EO & Board Members
12/08/11	RDAGE Board Meeting		By telephone at Shire of Esperance & GEDC office Kalgoorlie	EO & Board Members
13/10/11	RDAGE AGM & Board Meeting		Kalgoorlie	EO, FO & Board Members
08/12/11	RDAGE Board Meeting	Glen Brown (DRARD&LG)	Esperance	EO & Board Members
09/02/12	RDAGE Board Meeting	Sue Budalich (DEEWR)	Esperance	EO & Board Members Sonia Fedorow & Lyle O'Sullivan WA/NT Engagement Team
19/4/12	RDAGE Board Meeting	Bevan Bessen	Kalgoorlie	EO, FO & Board Members  Guests GEDC Larry Hamilton, Tracey Browning, Janice Kendall
15/06/12	RDAGE Board Meeting		Esperance	EO & Board Members



# Training & Development

Member/Staff	Date	Topic
Carol Mann	24/06/11	Portlink presentation to Minister Albanese & Grylls
Carol Mann	05/07/11	Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre Launch (Kalgoorlie)
Carol Mann	07/07/11	Tourism WA Regional Roadshow
Carol Mann Mal Osborne	11/08/11	Breakfast meeting with Prime Minister (Esperance)
Carla Dillon	27/09/11	Webarena Content Management System Training
Carol Mann Carla Dillon	28/09/11	RSMS/RCB training with DIAC
Mal Osborne	04/10/11 to 05/10/11	Tax Forum (Canberra)
Carol Mann Scott Manners	04/10/11 to 06/10/11	National Economic Development Conference 2011 (Adelaide)
Carla Dillon	19/10/11	RCB processing training (Perth)
Carol Mann	20/10/11	Goldfields Future Plan Review
Mal Osborne Robert Hicks Scott Manners Carol Mann Carla Dillon	27/10/11	Whats Down the Track Forum (Kalgoorlie)
Carol Mann	22/11/11	Regional Telecommunications Review
Carol Mann Mal Osborne Robert Hicks	01/12/11	Regional Consultation Forum (Kalgoorlie)
Scott Manners Carol Mann Carla Dillon	8/03/12	Leaders Edge Luncheon Dr. Chris Caton, Chief Economist of BT Financial Group
Scott Manners David Eagles (ECCI)	13/03/12 to 14/03/12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual WA Major Projects Conference
Mal Osborne Robert Hicks Ian Goldfinch Dale Piercey Carol Mann	16/03/12	Over the Horizon Forum (Esperance)
Carla Dillon	11/4/12	MYOB Advanced Training
M. Osborne C. Mann	16/05/12 to 18/05/12	RDA National Forum
K. Adams	28/05/12 to 29/05/12	WA Energy Conference
C. Mann	28/05/12 to 29/05/12	Australian Women's Leadership Symposium
Carol Mann Carla Dillon	11/6/12	RCB Training
R. Hicks	28/06/12 to 29/06/12	Regional Ports Conference

# Workshops & Consultations

## Grant writing & Management workshops

RDA Goldfields Esperance, in partnership with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC), conducted a series of regional grant writing and management workshops for stakeholders from government and non-government organisations. The workshops attracted 87 participants and were held in Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Ravensthorpe and Leonora. Participant learnt about the essentials of successful grant writing and how to manage funds gained.

## Regional Consultation Forum

RDA Goldfields-Esperance conducted a review of the *Goldfields Esperance Regional Strategic Development Plan 2011-2021*. A Regional Forum was held to give key stakeholders the opportunity to relay feedback on the relevance and accuracy of the Plan. Additional review sessions were held with the RDAGE Committee, the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) Committee, and the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC). The review process examined information contained in the current Plan, firmed up major projects and identified key priorities to take the Goldfields-Esperance region forward.

## National Broadband Network and the Digital Economy

RDAGE conducted the NBN & Digital Economy Forum in Kalgoorlie and facilitated presentations about the NBN and Digital Economy at the *Over the Horizon* forum in Esperance. Information sessions were also held with representatives from the: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Shires of Menzies, Coolgardie and Dundas. More than 200 people across the region received vital information about the region's digital future and following the Esperance forum an NBN Working Group was formed.

RDAGE also facilitated a workshop for the Esperance NBN Working Group to develop a deeper understanding of the ways in which broadband connectivity and associated digital technologies can contribute to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people in the community. The workshop looked at critical issues associated with the NBN, including the barriers to success, and the impact on future service delivery for commerce and industry and essential services such as health, education and the environment. RDAGE will continue to support the Working Group in 2012-13.

## Carbon Farming Forums

RDAGE, in partnership with South Coast NRM and Rangelands NRM, presented Carbon Farming forums in Kalgoorlie, Ravensthorpe and Esperance attended by 82 participants. The forums clarified what carbon farming is, how people can become involved, and explained some of the types of activities that can generate carbon credits. Participating at the forums were pastoralists and farmers, mining companies and interested community members, who learnt about the design and implementation of carbon farming management systems, storing carbon credits, soil carbon, and on-selling carbon credits to large corporations wishing to reduce their carbon footprint.

## Skills Connect Forum

RDAGE, in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, provided information about the Australian Government's Skills Connect initiative to business and industry leaders at a forum held in Kalgoorlie. Presenters from the Department of Industry and Innovation and Skills DMC provided details about:

- The National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF)
- Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) funding
- Funding for Mature Age Training, and
- The Australian Apprenticeships Initiatives.

Businesses and workforce agencies gained valuable information about the funding opportunities available and how to capitalize on these opportunities to grow their enterprises and skill their workforce.

# Workshops & Consultations

Date	Topic	Presenter	Location	Participants
19/09/11	Grant Writing & Management	Jodie Mortadza	Kalgoorlie	43
21/09/11	Grant Writing & Management	Jodie Mortadza	Ravensthorpe	12
22/09/11	Grant Writing & Management	Jodie Mortadza	Esperance	28
26/09/11	Grant Writing & Management	Jodie Mortadza	Leonora	3
01/12/11	Regional Consultation Forum	Bevan Bessen	Kalgoorlie	64
15/03/12	NBN and the Digital Economy Forum	Duncan Bremner & Dr. Jim Wyatt	Kalgoorlie	15
16/3/12	Over the Horizon Presentation on NBN and the Digital Economy Forum	Duncan Bremner & Paul Millwood	Esperance	200
12/06/12	Carbon Farming Workshop	Tim Wiley	Kalgoorlie	29
20/06/12	NBN	David Bartlett	Esperance	32
26/06/12	Skills Connect	Dr Margaret Cameron Sarah Cordiner	Kalgoorlie	31
28/06/12	Carbon Farming Workshop	Ben Keogh Gavin Ellis Craig Russell	Esperance & Ravensthorpe	31 18

# Publicity & Promotions

## **Newsletters**

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

- RDAGE 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 2011/2012 financial year. See copies of the newspaper articles and publicity, as follows.

