

**Quarterly Newsletter –
March 2011**

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Regional Development Australia Fund

On March 3, 2011 Malcolm Osborne (Chair) and Carol Mann (EO) travelled to Canberra to attend the RDA National Forum. During the forum the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Simon Crean MP, announced the establishment of the \$1 billion Regional Development Australia Fund.

The Fund will boost economic and community development in regional Australia and is a new approach to unlocking the potential of Australia's regions by focusing on locally driven solutions to regional needs.

Local Government bodies and incorporated Not-For-Profit organisations are eligible to apply for funding.

Grants of between \$500,000 and \$25 million will be available to support projects. Grants of more than \$5 million must be matched with funds from sources other than the Australian Government. To ensure an immediate and positive impact, projects must be 'investment ready' and all planning, rezoning, environmental and native title approvals should be in place.

Guidelines for the RDA Fund are available on the RDAGE website.

**Draft Goldfields-Esperance Region
Strategic Development Plan 2011-2021**

The draft *Goldfields-Esperance Region Strategic Development Plan 2011-2021* focuses on addressing the opportunities and challenges that have the potential to significantly influence the immediate and long term development of the Goldfields Esperance Region.

The draft plan is now available on the GEDC website, www.gedc.wa.gov.au and you are invited to offer feedback and comment for consideration.

Please provide this to Janice Kendall, Manager Policy and Projects, Janice.kendall@gedc.wa.gov.au or phone 0890 805 009 by 25 March 2011.

**Goldfields-Esperance Project Planning
Workshops**

The Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Goldfields-Esperance are presenting a series of workshops aimed at developing the skills of individuals and organisations in planning for project, writing grant applications, and managing grant funding.

The February/March workshops in Esperance, Ravensthorpe and Kalgoorlie were a huge success. Registration for the June Project Planning workshops is now open.

Visit www.gedc.wa.gov.au to download the full 2011 program or phone Carla on (08) 9091 6051 for more information.

