



# Newsletter

March 2012



## Strengthening Goldfields Esperance Regional Development



*RDAGE Board meeting, with 3 new members  
Photo taken by The Esperance Express*

RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) is pleased to announce an increase to its committee membership. The RDAGE Committee has been expanded from 7 to 12 members. Four new members have been appointed by Minister Simon Crean, the new RDAGE Committee members are:

### **Jeff Carter**

Mr Carter lives in Leonora and is the Shire President of the Shire of Leonora. Jeff is also a pastoralist and business owner.

### **Patrick Hill**

Mr Hill lives in Laverton and is the Chairman of the Outback Highway Development Council. Patrick is currently a Councillor with the Shire of Laverton and has spent many years in the role of Shire President.

### **Dale Piercey**

Ms Piercey lives in Esperance and is the Gaining Access to Training and Employment (GATE) trainer for Smyl Community Services. Dale is an active member of several community groups.

### **Julia Shadlow-Bath**

Ms Shadlow-Bath lives in Kalgoorlie and is CEO of the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation. Julia has extensive experience in media and public relations.

There are now 11 members on the Committee, leaving one vacancy. If you are interested in joining the RDAGE Committee, information can be obtained by emailing: [rdaeoi@regional.gov.au](mailto:rdaeoi@regional.gov.au) or by phoning 1800 505 938.

Further information on the RDA network, the Expression of Interest (EOI) Handbook and the EOI form is available from [www.rda.gov.au](http://www.rda.gov.au)

## Contact Us

**Carol Mann**  
*Executive Officer*

Ph: (08) 9091 6051  
Fax: (08) 9022 9151  
Mob: 0417 959 458  
[eo@rdage.com.au](mailto:eo@rdage.com.au)  
[www.rdage.com.au](http://www.rdage.com.au)

171 Piccadilly Street,  
Kalgoorlie WA 6430

PO Box 10331  
Kalgoorlie WA 6433

## Eyes on the region

The RDA Goldfields Esperance Board invited Sue Budalich, the region's new Education, Skills, Jobs (ESJ) Coordinator to present at its' recent Board meeting in Esperance.

Sue, who is employed by the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR), is one of 34 ESJ Coordinators appointed to regions across Australia. Sue commenced in her new role on 30 January, 2012.

One of the key tasks of the new ESJ Coordinators will be to identify trends, issues and gaps in education, skills and employment across the regions and develop a plan to address these issues. Sue will examine the *Goldfields Esperance Strategic Development Plan* and the *Goldfields Futures Plan* in order to inform the implementation plan she will be drafting.

Some of the key issues to be addressed by the new ESJ Coordinator include: childhood development; rates of high school completion; improving pathways into higher education; increasing traineeships and apprenticeships; Indigenous employment; and, labour market shortages.

Sue will offer forums on a sub-regional basis to illustrate and inform community of these issues. For further information phone 08 9464 4243 or email [Suzanne.BUDALICH@deewr.gov.au](mailto:Suzanne.BUDALICH@deewr.gov.au)

## Strategic Workshop with Local Government

A strategic planning workshop will be conducted by RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE), in conjunction with the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC).

The workshop will be held on Wednesday February 29th at the offices of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and will involve representatives from RDAGE, and the Shires of Coolgardie, Dundas, Esperance, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjarraku, Ravensthorpe and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The workshop will review the projects and strategies contained in the *Goldfields Esperance Strategic Development Plan 2011-2021* to capture the priorities of all communities in the region.

RDAGE partners with all three levels of government to develop solutions to local challenges.



*Attendees at the RDA Goldfields-Esperance Regional Consultation Forum*

## Forum discusses regional priorities

RDA Goldfields-Esperance held a regional consultation forum in Kalgoorlie in December 2011 to review the *Goldfields-Esperance Strategic Development Plan 2011-2021* and give key stakeholders the opportunity to relay feedback on the relevance and accuracy of the Plan.

The forum examined information contained in the current Plan, firmed up major projects and identified key priorities to take the Goldfields-Esperance region forward.

**RDAGE will be holding a free public information session on the National Broadband Network and the Digital Economy**

**[More information coming soon](#)**

# Clean Energy Future

The Government has a comprehensive plan to move to a clean energy future. This includes:

- Introducing a carbon price, promoting innovation and investment in renewable energy, encouraging energy efficiency, creating opportunities in the land sector to cut pollution.

There are many opportunities available for households, land holders, businesses, community organisations, Local Government, research organisations and regions strongly impacted by the carbon price

Recently announced programs include:

## **Community Energy Efficiency Program - \$200 million**

To assist local government, not-for-profit and community organisations to undertake energy efficiency upgrades to community infrastructure, including council buildings, stadiums, education facilities, town halls and nursing homes.

While funding for wind and solar power systems are not considered eligible for this program, solar hot water systems are eligible as they are not classified as renewable energy generation systems.

## **Low Income Energy Efficient program - \$100 million**

To support groups of service providers to demonstrate smarter energy use in low income households across Australia. Purchase and installation of renewable energy generation systems, such as solar photovoltaic, micro-hydro, wind turbine and biomass generation systems are not eligible, but solar hot water is as it is not classed as a generation system.

## **Energy Efficiency Information Grants program - \$40 million**

To support small and medium sized businesses and community groups by providing information and advice to make smarter energy choices.

“The programs will enable all Australians regardless of where they live or how much they earn to harness the opportunities of a low carbon future. They will be delivered in partnership with business, councils and community groups.”

Applications opened on February 13 and the guidelines for each of these programs are now available via the link below.

[www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives)

For further Clean Energy Future information contact the call centre on Tel: 1800 057 590 or email [enquiries@cleanenergyfuture.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cleanenergyfuture.gov.au)



## Department name change

On Monday 12 December 2011 Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced changes to Cabinet, including changes to the responsibilities of departments and agencies.

As a result the (former) Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Governments will be a stand-alone portfolio called the **Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport**.

The Hon. Simon Crean MP will continue as Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and Minister for the Arts. Senator the Hon Mark Arbib will be joining the portfolio in his role as Minister for Sport.



## Over the Horizon Forum

The Esperance Chamber of Commerce & Industry in partnership with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission will be hosting this business and industry forum.

Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance has proudly sponsored this event.

The Forum will be held on:

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
10.30am to 5.00pm  
Esperance Civic Centre

The forum will be addressed by the Hon. Anthony Albanese and have presentations from the most influential industries to our Region's economy.

For more information about this forum please contact the Esperance Chamber of Commerce & Industry on 08 9071 5142.

## Satellite Subsidy Scheme

Analog TV signals will be gradually phased out across the country between 2010 and 2013 and Australia TV will become digital-only.

Households in regional and remote areas that currently rely on TV reception from a local analog self-help tower, which is not being converted to digital, may be eligible for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme.

Under the Satellite Subsidy Scheme, the Australian Government will subsidise the installation of satellite TV equipment (a VAST set-top box and satellite dish) in eligible households.

The subsidy will be rolled out progressively across Australia. Households will receive a letter inviting them to apply for the subsidy when it opens in their area.

### Where can I find out more?

To find out when the Satellite Subsidy Scheme is available in select areas across regional and remote Australia visit the Digital Ready website [www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy](http://www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy) or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10



## Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) is Australia's only national foundation offering small, discretionary funds to regional communities in all states and territories. FRRR was established in 2000 to promote rural and regional renewal, regeneration and development in Australia in social, economic, environment, and cultural areas.

Further details about FRRR can be obtained from its website <http://www.frrr.org.au/>

## Enterprise Connect

Enterprise Connect offers comprehensive advice and support to eligible Australian small and medium-sized enterprises to help them transform and reach their full potential.

Eligible businesses are able to request a comprehensive, confidential and independent *Business Review* at no charge.

Enterprise Connect works with you to transform your business holistically so the solutions are sustainable for the future.

For further information phone 13 1791

Or visit

<http://www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx>