

RDA Wheatbelt Quarterly Report April to June 2018

We are pleased to provide the second update on the activities and achievements of RDA Wheatbelt. This publication is to introduce new activities, update on ongoing projects and to answer some of the questions as to what RDA Wheatbelt does. For more information on any of the activities please contact the Administration Office on 08 9575 1888 or admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au

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1 PROJECTS

1.1 WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK

The Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) Working Party has had a meeting with Minister MacTeirnan to discuss the State Government Leverage Fund application for co-contribution funds to a BBRF grant. The Minister advised the working group to meet with the Regional Agricultural Freight Review group to discuss how the two groups of work fit together. This took place late April and it was clear that the objectives of the two projects are aligned with the WSFN work and an effort is being made by both parties to understand how to achieve these objectives.

The WSFN Working Party has made an initial submission to the Revitalising Agricultural Region Freight (RARF) project in conjunction with the Wheatbelt Regional Roads Groups and all Wheatbelt LGAs. This document outlines the background and methodologies used so far in prioritising the Wheatbelt's local freight network. It also outlines how the project fits within the seven key objectives of the RARF.

The WSFN Working Party is continuing work on a business case for program of works development. As part of that process further prioritisation work will be done and the WSFN Working Party is keen to share that information to inform the RARF strategy further.

RDA Wheatbelt have released funds for this vital project to undertake a benefit cost analysis of the proposed works in preparation for a potential Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) application.

1.2 COLLABORATION FOR REGIONAL IMPACT

At the June meeting the RDA Wheatbelt Committee voted to transfer ownership of the 'Collaboration for Regional Impact' project to Juliet Grist. Since relocating to the Great Southern region, Juliet has continued to commit many hours of personal time towards progressing this initiative and the Committee feel that due to her level of knowledge, contacts and success to date, the program will be in the 'best hands' for ensuring future development.

RDA Wheatbelt recognises the importance of this project and understands the needs and the possibilities for achieving valuable outcomes for the region and therefore wish to see this continue to develop. We sincerely wish Juliet every success and will continue to be highly supportive of the aims of this program.

For more information or how to become involved please contact Juliet Grist of Rural and Regional Economic Solutions on juliet@rreconomics.com.au

1.3 ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Activity Work Plans for these Inclusive Communities grants has now been accepted by the Department of Social Services Inclusive Communities grant program.

A comprehensive advertising program utilising standard media, social media, our website and newsletter along with known stakeholder targeted emails to attract the most suitable applicants for the positions of Aboriginal Project Officer was undertaken in May, with interviews expected to be completed in July.

We have yet to be advised of the outcome of a funding application with the WA Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development for the creation of a toolkit focused on opportunities created through the release of assets as part of the South West Native Title Settlement. The idea is to provide inspiration and ideas for the commercialisation of assets, similar to the Enterprising Communities program completed by RDA Wheatbelt in 2017.

1.4 ENERGY METALS AND POWER STORAGE

The Chair Mr Terry Waldron attended the launch of the Lithium and Rare Minerals Study hosted by the US Counsel General and Tesla. The project has been renamed as *'Establishing the Case for Energy Metals and Battery Manufacturing in Western Australia'*. This important issue has gained much media attention recently and the Wheatbelt is still keen to maintain the impetus for this project. Mr Waldron also attended the Innovate WA Forum where the Study was promoted.

The Study was released on the 13th July at the *Celebrating Energy Metals* event.

1.5 BUILDING CAPABLE COMMUNITIES

RDA Wheatbelt is partnering with a regional consultancy to support the development of a model that connects people in regional towns with My Aged Care Funding to live safe and well in their communities.

The Building Capable Communities model as it is known, will develop a sustainable approach to protecting vulnerable people, particularly those who are aged and frail, to live within their communities through establishing better community connections and opportunities.

As funding is changing with the introduction of My Aged Care and NDIA (NDIS), a more individualised system is being adopted, with funding now around the person's requirements. This funding opens up opportunities not just for vulnerable people who can have more control and direction over their funding but also opportunities for communities to deliver required services.

Having a mechanism in place that builds awareness and connections allows for people to effectively use their aged care funding to purchase services they want and need. This will in turn, create stronger, more capable communities that are supporting each other through services and also reciprocal relationships and connections.

Through looking at community services rather than carer provider services this will divert people from welfare dependency by creation of employment streams, education, training and small business. Examples of employment and business that could be adapted would include transport, cleaning and property services, gardening through to hands on personal care, nursing and community access.

The Building Capable Communities model is aligned with the RDAW charter elements around supporting small business development and job creation.

1.6 FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1.6.1 Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF)

Round 2 of BBRF closed on the 19th December. RDA Wheatbelt actively engaged with 35 organisations for this round with eight projects submitting an application. [For more information.](#)

Late News – RDA Wheatbelt congratulates the successful funding recipients, notified in July.

Infrastructure Stream -

- *Shire of Toodyay - \$4.7 mill to develop a sport and recreation precinct*
- *Shire of Trayning - \$363,317 for the aquatic centre redevelopment*
- *Shire of Lake Grace - \$20,000 towards refurbishing the Varley museum*

Community Stream -

- *Narrogin - \$19,500 for Regional Early Education and Development (REED) Leadership Capability Building in the Wheatbelt's Child Care Sector.*

The Department is forecasting that the third round of the Building Better Regions Fund will occur prior to the end of this year. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact us early to discuss your proposal and to take advantage of the support and resources we offer.

For BBRF information and resources please go to our website. NOTE there are always changes to the guidelines between rounds so please be mindful these resources are based on previous rounds and although a valuable resource, some aspects may yet be updated.

Please contact admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au for more information and copies of our BBRF vimeos (copyright for Wheatbelt projects only)

To discuss your project and for assistance, please contact our Director Regional Development Mandy Walker on 0428 372 179 or mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au

1.6.2 Regional Growth Fund

Regional Growth Fund – This round closed on the 27 April and EOIs are currently being assessed. Successful proponents will be invited to submit a complete proposal. The minimum funding available under RGF is \$10 million with a requirement for matching funding. The fund is open to state and territory governments, local governments, not-for-profit and for profit organisations for projects that are located in, or significantly benefit regional Australia. Projects may include a number of strategically linked projects, which together form a package of works that will deliver economic benefits to a region or regions. This will allow the combining of projects that cross over LGA and /or Regional Development Australia (RDA) boundaries. RDA Wheatbelt has targeted a number of organisations and offered support for applicants. [For more information.](#)

1.7 WHEATBELT BUSINESS NETWORK

The Director Regional Development Mandy Walker has joined the organizing committee for this years regional business event, WE Shine. RDA Wheatbelt has elected to support this event in recognition that it is supporting businesses across the whole of the Wheatbelt and meets the MoU commitment with WBN and WDC. Details on the proposed event will be posted when available.

2 SUBMISSIONS, RESEARCH, EVALUATIONS, NEWSLETTERS ETC

RDA Wheatbelt distributes a monthly ENewsletter to nearly 600 subscribers with RDAW activities, regional information, grants and events. Follow the [link for archived Newsletters.](#)

Research this quarter includes -

- Secondary research on community bought and owned retail outlets regarding:
 - Financing structures and approaches;
 - Business structures; and
 - Governance structures.
- Ballardong Country population profile synopsis which included:
 - Identification of the 34 Wheatbelt Shires that were classified in Ballardong Country;
 - Analysis of Ballardong Noongar population regarding demographics, education profiles, employment and labour force profiles; and
 - Comparisons of Ballardong Noongar age, education and employment profiles with non-Aboriginal populations in the 34 Shires.
- Collation and analysis of Wheatbelt economic and employment data by sub-region including:
 - Changes in business numbers between 2011 and 2016;
 - Changes in employment numbers by LGA by industry between 2011 and 2016; and
 - Changes in personal and household weekly incomes between 2011 and 2016.

- Wheatbelt Aboriginal population’s 2016 internet and self-employment analysis
- Wheatbelt Senior and District High Schools year 9 NAPLAN scores 2008 to 2017.
- Economic and social analysis to support a substantial regional proposal.

3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

Whist comprehensive consultation and engagement is facilitated via telephone and email, face to face meetings in relation to activities over the last quarter include:

3.1 FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mark Vanner RDA, AusIndustry, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Minister MacTiernan, Wheatbelt Development Commission Chair and CEO, Department of Social Services, Freight Logistics Council WA, WA Department of Transport, Hon. Martin Aldridge MP, National Trust, Department of Education, DPIRD Regional New Industries Fund workshop, DPIRD Aboriginal Business Development Project, Regional Organisation of Councils meetings, Zone meetings plus Wheatbelt Local Government representatives.

3.2 CORPORATE AND BUSINESS

Transport leaders, CBH, Pracsys, Avivo, Muresk, Greenbatch, Strategy Matrix.

3.3 COMMUNITY

Reconciliation WA, Mr David Collard, Koya, Mr Oral McGuire, Ballardong Elders, Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Group, Tess Joyner-Slott, Helen Westcott CEACA EO, Leibe Group, Julie Flockhart

3.4 OTHER

Goldfields Waste Summit, Wheatbelt Conference, RDA WA state Chair’s and Directors Regional Development meeting, RDA Chairs Mr Keith Ellis and Ms Lee Jacobsen, Innovate WA Forum, Lithium Study launch, NEWROC launch of Telecommunications project, Wheatbelt Youth Mental Health Strategy meeting, meeting with Moora shire representatives WDC and Amity Health regarding education projects, Telecommunications Universal Service Guarantee consultation,

3.5 JOINT RDAW & WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD MEETING

Each June the Boards hold a joint meeting with the view to establishing a few ongoing priorities and if required to designate roles within activities. This successful collaboration assists to best utilize limited resources whilst reducing the chance of duplicating efforts. It is recognized that resources do not always complement all the needs within the region but for the 2018-19 period it is agreed that there will be collaboration on aged care, telecommunications, transport and small business development.

4 COMMITTEE AND STAFF

4.1 STRONG RESPONSE FOR RDAW DEPUTY AND COMMITTEE POSITIONS

With the opportunity to apply for these positions having closed on the 25th June, RDA Wheatbelt is pleased with the number and quality of applicants for the positions. In total 12 applications have been received for 6 positions.

Chairman Mr Terry Waldron said “The applications were of a very high standard and the difficult task of selecting the most suitable applicants was based on ensuring a good coverage across all requirements, including the RDA Charter, meeting the RDA selection criteria, geographical coverage, networks, skills and experience”.

As the only Federal conduit in the region, the RDA Wheatbelt Committee aims to have experience covering all major issues and opportunities, including transport, education, infrastructure, aged care, health, business, telecommunications, early years, youth, Aboriginal affairs, tourism, corporate, finance, agriculture and Local Government.

A report detailing the recruitment process and recommendations has been forwarded to Minister McVeigh for review, with appointments to be made following approval from the Minister's Office"

4.2 CONTACT THE RDAW

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