

RDA Wheatbelt Quarterly Report July to Sept 2018

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 RDA WHEATBELT ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The 2017-18 Annual Report is now available to download from the [RDAW website](#).

2 PROJECTS

2.1 WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK

The Business Case, including the Cost Benefit Analysis for this project has been completed. A funding application for the BBRF Round 3 is being developed and the potential for the project to be included in the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative is being investigated.

The Australian Government will invest \$3.5 billion through its new ROSI initiative, to improve productivity and efficiency on Australia's key freight roads, providing better connections between agricultural regions and ports, airports and other transport hubs and better access for tourism, mining and other sectors.

ROSI will deliver works such as road sealing, flood immunity, strengthening and widening, pavement rehabilitation, bridge and culvert upgrades and road realignments - opening up corridors to provide a more reliable and safe road network, improve access for higher capacity vehicles, better connect regional communities, and facilitate tourism opportunities.

Improved access provided through ROSI will deliver substantial social and economic benefits, including opportunities for greater regional employment and business growth.

2.2 NOONGAR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (NEDS)

The projects seek to provide 'on the ground' support to groups and individuals and build partnerships to identify social and economic opportunities and pathways for starting a small business or social enterprise, with the social enterprises also expected to act as incubation hubs. The key element is building capacity within the Noongar community for the project to continue beyond the funding period.

RDA Wheatbelt is excited to be able to introduce the two people that are 'on the ground' delivering these projects in the Wheatbelt. Robert Miles is working with the Ballardong region and is already forging ahead with introducing himself and the project to the community. The very positive response to this project and input into the name that will be an integral part of the project, Moorditj Yaakiny (Standing Strong), has been fantastic. Stephanie Mippy has recently joined the team and has already been working with local groups and individuals to develop the networks required to progress this initiative. The Yued project will be known as Ngala Wele Karla (Our Dream on Fire).

The process to design new logos, construct websites, project emails, and create the information packs is currently underway but should you wish to contact the Project Officers please contact Robert on 0428 959 084 or robert.miles@rdawheatbelt.com.au and Stephanie on 0419 928 818 or steph.mippy@rdawheatbelt.com.au

Whilst the main focus of these projects has been aimed at the Noongar community, both Robert and Steph are happy to work with any Aboriginal people wishing to start up a Wheatbelt based business.

2.2.1 Introducing Steph Mippy – Ngala Wele Karla

I have been welcomed by the RDA Wheatbelt so much so, words cannot comprehend. The support and help I have received to commence this journey has been unbelievably positive.

To date I have received a lot of positive input and feedback from local Yued people in Moora and surrounds with 5 interested participants now involved and many others interested in becoming

participants. There is interest in starting training, landscaping, lawnmowing, bookkeeping, music teaching, tourism and Cultural history tour businesses just to name a few.

I am in the process of organising an “Entering my own business” workshop with 5 participants. This is through the Business Local initiative with Willy Regan of RSM, which will be secured in November 2018.

Meetings with the Moora Elders commenced at the Moora Apex Park on Tuesday 16th October, which was a great success, with the Elders group offering to be the support mechanism for the Yued people in their ventures and throughout the area for all other community aspects.

Networking is an important facet of this role to raise the awareness of the Nyoongar Enterprise Development Support role, which is what I am heavily involved in at this stage including liaison with Department of Transport, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Education, RSM, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Shire of Moora and Volunteer WA just to name a few.

At this stage I am still in the development stages and paving a pathway to create a journey for any interested participant to walk.

It is an extremely exciting time for myself stepping into this unique role.

2.2.2 Introducing Robert Miles - Moorditj Yaakiny

Since July 2018 I have invested a substantial amount of time in developing clear pathways to building a strong foundation for the Moorditj Yaakin project to launch itself from.

These pathways are part of an evolving process to build partnerships with Aboriginal people in Ballardong Country to identify social and economic opportunities to starting and operating a business or social enterprise in the region.

In seeking to build partnerships with Aboriginal people in Ballardong Country I have been busy undertaking a range of activities over the past few months that are commonly known as ‘planting the seed’

These ‘seed planting’ opportunities have been directed mostly to the primary stakeholders (Aboriginal families, communities and Individuals) in yarning about developing a business idea that may lead to operating and owning their own business or enterprise, and the potential and opportunities that may bring.

This approach is reflected in my ‘Meet and Greet’ events across the region where I am able to invite local communities to come for a yarn and a feed as way to discuss my role and to seek out potential participation into the program. So far, I have trialed this in Kellerberrin, and soon to be in York, with Goomalling and Quairading to follow.

Although I have started the ball rolling, so to speak, I am grateful of the leadership and support given by the RDA Wheatbelt team in undertaking my role, knowing that they have my back, including the complementary work being done by my counterpart in Yued Country.

2.3 BUILDING CAPABLE COMMUNITIES

RDA Wheatbelt resubmitted an application to the Try, Test Learn grant program being run out of the Department of Social Services for funds 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.

2.4 TOURISM PROJECTS

In September RDAW contributed to and attended a stargazing and bush foods event in Perenjori. Astrotourism is an emerging opportunity in the Mid-West and Wheatbelt. We are pleased to see that of the eight towns already signed up as Astro Tourism towns through Stargazing WA, two are in the Wheatbelt region. The Shire of Wongan Hills - Ballidu and Shire of Dandaragan (Cervantes) have identified locations that will provide stargazers with the ideal conditions for viewing the night sky and night time photography. RDAW has identified Astro Tourism as an opportunity for our Wheatbelt towns to capitalise on their pristine night skies and supplement existing tourism activities.

2.5 FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2.5.1 Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Round 3 NOW OPEN

A key component under Round Three is that up to \$45 million has been earmarked for tourism related infrastructure projects that will help stimulate local economies by investing in the tourism sector. This sector is vital for our regional and remote communities, creating jobs, stimulating new business and sustaining long term economic growth.

The closing date for applications is 15 November 2018.

For more information please access our [website BBRF page](#) or contact admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au

For assistance, to discuss your project and request a 'letter of support' please contact our Director Regional Development Mandy Walker on 0428 372 179 or mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au

2.5.2 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.](#)

2.6 WHEATBELT BUSINESS NETWORK

The RDAW Director Regional Development sits on the organizing committee for the WBN women's regional business event, WE Shine. Interest has again been very strong this year, with the event to be held in York on the 26th October.

The NEDS Project Officers through RDAW have recently become members of the WBN which will provide the projects with invaluable small business resources and networks.

3 SUBMISSIONS, RESEARCH, EVALUATIONS ETC

Submissions and research activities this quarter include –

- Submission to the Telecommunications Enquiry
- Summary of the Bruce Rock P&C True Blue Dreaming Mentoring (TBDM) Program
- Presentation of findings to the official launch of the Bruce Rock TBDM program
- Submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet on the discussion paper regarding the formation and structures of the Aboriginal Office of Advocacy and Accountability.
- Additional analysis of RDAW's Digital survey as part of the collaboration with Wheatbelt Development Commission in their submission of Black Spot Nominations.
- Prepared a suite of Business Case templates for BBRF and other funding applicants to use in developing their applications.
- Prepared Business Case templates for use with prospective NEDS clients.

4 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:

4.1 FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DPIRD Leverage Fund, Shire of Cunderdin, DPRID Aboriginal Business Unit, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Shire of Kellerberrin, Shire of Dandaragan, Community Health, RecWA, DPIRD, Shire of Kondinin, Shire of Beverley, Central Eastern Zone, Avon Midland Zone, Secondary Freight Route Group, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Shire of Chittering, Shire of Merredin, Shire of Gingin, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

4.2 CORPORATE AND BUSINESS

Pracsys, Greenbatch, KPMG, STN Consulting, RSM Business Connect, WA Food Future Alliance, Bankwest, Production Function, Wheatbelt Business Network, Reconciliation WA.

4.3 COMMUNITY

Noongar NRM Pathways project, CEACA, Liebe Group, Stargazers WA, Astrotourism WA, Seabrook Corporation, Bruce Rock P&C, Koya Aboriginal Corporation.

4.4 OTHER

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

5 COMMITTEE AND STAFF

5.1 RDAW DEPUTY AND COMMITTEE POSITIONS

We are pleased to announce the new appointments to the RDA Wheatbelt Committee have been approved by the Minister's office and we sincerely welcome the new Members to our team, Fiona Bush, Kim Hewson, Steve Martin and Bonnie Cole. Current Member Karen Strange has been appointed Deputy, Wendy Newman and Michael Aspinall have been reappointed with Tuck Waldron and Lauren Schutz making up the committee of nine.

Chairman Mr Tuck Waldron said "I am really excited to welcome our new team and looking forward to working with the new Members. Our committee and staff are passionate about making our region a better place to live and I have confidence that our new committee will find this both a challenging and rewarding role".

"I sincerely wish to thank all applicants and to advise those that were not successful that this has been an extremely difficult decision due to the quality, skills, experience and enthusiasm portrayed by all the applicants" said Tuck.

We wish to express our gratitude to Gary Tuffin who has been an integral part of the committee and the finance sub-committee for over 6.5 years. Gary did not renominate due to relocating from the region.

Please follow the link for more information on the [RDA Wheatbelt Committee](#).

5.2 CONTACT RDAW

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