



Building Rural Communities: Round 3 Funding announced.....RDA Darling Downs and South West has again chaired the assessment panel for this highly regarded Qld State government initiative and we congratulate the successful applicants from our region in this round. Up to \$10 000 was awarded to assist projects submitted from Lifeline Darling Downs & South West, South Mayall Catchment Landcare Group, Charleville & District Chamber of Commerce, North-east Downs Landcare Group, Stanthorpe Sports Association, Downs Historical Rail Society, South-West NRM, Empire Theatre Projects and Toowoomba Regional Council. Check the RDA DD&SW website for Round 4 dates.

Toowoomba and environs possible base for Fly In/Fly Out workers.....RDA DD&SW has submitted a response to the Senate enquiry on FI/FO DI/DO implications of the resource sector expansion. We are working jointly with the newly created Toowoomba Regional Enterprise and DEEDI in advocating a change to airport restrictions that will allow regional carriers access to the Toowoomba—Roma/Emerald/ Miles/Chinchilla airports. Data is currently being collected to establish demand for these services. Skytrans have already indicated that they are extremely interested in servicing these flight routes. Real Estate agents have provided comprehensive data, indicating that Toowoomba has the capacity and services to cope with significant population growth and this strategy would assist with critical housing shortage and affordability issues in centres to the west. RDA will advocate a solid business case to all levels of government and seek a review of the current arrangements.

Scoping Study - Mining and Coal Seam Gas Development..... RDA DD&SW commissioned **Parsons Brinckerhoff** to complete a desktop study that would provide information that could be used by all levels of government and key stakeholder groups within the region to better inform debate and policy decision-making in relation to the resource development occurring within our region. The key project driver for this study are the questions being raised by a cross section of stakeholders within the region with regard to the large amount of mining exploration and resource development occurring within the geographic boundaries of the Committee's area of responsibility. Resource development has raised concerns within the community regarding the social, environmental and economic impact on the region as a whole. In particular, the Committee has had feedback from a significant number of concerned groups within the region about the potential impact of resource extraction activity on the agricultural sector and services. To address this concern objectively, the Committee engaged Parsons Brinckerhoff to collect technically robust research that can be submitted to assist with informing government decision-making regarding the process. The second key element of this study is to document the processes utilised to inform the allocation of funds by resource development companies that arises from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Social Impact Management Plans (SIMP). The objective of this element of the study is to better inform the Committee so that it can provide feedback to the Commonwealth, consistent with its Charter, regarding the opportunities in the region that will realise the most effective return on government funding and to provide a robust reference to stakeholder groups who are unclear of the processes followed. **The report will be available on our website from 20th October.**

Advocacy for the region.....RDA DD&SW continues to advocate successfully to all levels of government on a large number of issues brought forward by stakeholders from across the region. These include, sourcing funding options for infrastructure and innovation, building social capacity, addressing environmental issues, business and industry support and the promotion of NFP proposals and projects. Please contact the office if you require advice or assistance on matters relating to government.

RDA Fund.....Whilst there were no projects funded in the Darling Downs & SW region in Round 1, please remember that of some 550 submitted projects Australia-wide, 35 only were able to be funded at this time to a total of \$150M. A further \$1B remains to be distributed and the next round is scheduled to open in December. Clearly, the Commonwealth is looking for projects that have significant co-funding available and we urge all proponents to follow feedback supplied by DoRA when re-submitting. We do not have access to individual feedback but our Project Officer—Bryan Gray is happy to provide advice and assistance wherever possible.



Darling Downs & South West QLD

DSLO Update

RDA DD&SW has been facilitating a six month community engagement program to highlight the Digital TV switchover and prepare residents for a smooth transition from Analogue TV signal to a Digital TV free to air signal commencing on the 6th Dec 2011 in the Darling Downs & South West region of Qld. The main focus has been on developing and implementing an awareness program in the region to ensure that all residents, community groups, and businesses are aware of the switching off of the analogue TV signal and the need to get 'Digital Ready' by the 6th Dec 2011.

The main role of the DSLO (Digital Switchover Liasion Officer) is to work with local and state government departments, community organisations, multicultural groups, Indigenous organisation and special needs groups in the region covering Toowoomba, Dalby, Miles, Gatton, Kingaroy, Goondiwindi, Warwick and Stanthorpe. The Federal Government has provided a number of schemes to assist the community to move to being digital ready including the HAS (Household Assistance Scheme), SSS (Satellite Subsidy Scheme), Digital Advisor scheme and VAST (Viewer Access Satellite Television). To date, the program has identified that over 96% of households are aware and ready for the digital switchover . If you know of anyone who requires assistance with the switchover please contact Marc Leman at the RDA DD&SW office.

Have
your say
for Qld

All Australians are invited to have their say on whether **Local Government should be recognised in the Australian Constitution.** [click here](#) **Closes November 4th**

A series of public consultations will be held as part of the **Convergence Review**, which will examine the policy and regulatory frameworks that apply to media and communications in Australia. [click here](#)

Call for public comments on **Digital Economy initiatives** [click here](#)

Review of Regional Rail Services [click here](#)

Review of **Remote Participation and Employment Services** [click here](#) **Closes October 12th**

Health Workforce Australia (HWA) is seeking input from community leaders on its **Rural and Remote Health Workforce Innovation Strategy.** [click here](#) **Closes October 28th**

REGIONAL NEWS

For all media releases, news items and announcements relating to the Darling Downs & South West RDA region please visit the website as updates occur regularly:

www.rda-ddsw.org.au

Community Plans, Regional Plans and Statistical Regional profiles are also available for download on the site.

Clean Futures Conference

28th October 2011—Sunshine Coast

Queensland's Clean Futures Conference brings together entrepreneurs, experts and advisors from Australia and overseas in a full-day door-opening, "building your bottom line" opportunity.

WHY ATTEND?

- Capitalise on carbon-constrained business solutions
- Gain expert advice on cost saving by adopting environmental technologies
- Identify growth opportunities
- Explore cleantech global trends with international speakers
- Establish valuable links with the cleantech community.

http://www.innovation-centre.com.au/cleanfutures_registration

New funding for Emerging Renewable Energies Program -

<http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/>

\$5000-\$20000 Community Action Grants -

http://www.rda-ddsw.org.au/Funding_Availability_7.htm

\$1000-\$5000 Not-for-profit Volunteer Grants available -

http://www.juliecollins.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/volunteer_grant_close_25052011.aspx

\$2000 Junior Sporting Club Grants - <http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au>

\$35 000 Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grants -

<http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants>

