



Regional Development *Australia*

DARLING DOWNS
AND SOUTH WEST INC

Regional Roadmap Summary 2016 - 2020



An Australian Government Initiative

Message from the Chair

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a federally funded network of 55 committees across Australia, charged with supporting the growth and development of their regional communities.

Part of RDA's role is to develop and maintain a Regional Plan or 'Roadmap' that provides an overview of each of the regions, including a description of the region, its strengths, challenges, opportunities and critical issues.

This Roadmap serves as a document that outlines key messages that are relevant across the whole DDSW region and designed to help promote the regions comparative and competitive advantages and drive its economic performance.

The DDSW region consists of the 10 Local Government areas of; Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Western Downs. The region is recognised for its strong agricultural industry, education and health service sectors and developing transport and logistics industries. However, like all regions, we have our challenges, and the implementation of this 2016-2020 Roadmap in collaboration with other key stakeholders will assist to mitigate these.

RDA's are established to advise and deliver to the Federal Government on five clear actions:

1. Maintain and keep current a three to five year regional plan (Roadmap) that focuses on economic development of their region
2. Provide advice on priority activities that will drive economic development and take advantage of comparative advantages, based on consultation with key stakeholders
3. Assist local community stakeholders to develop project proposals and help shepherd them to appropriate public and/or private funding sources
4. Providing advice to the Government on critical issues affecting the region
5. Increasing Awareness of Government Programs

The committee of RDA DDSW has identified the following six regional priorities that will help deliver our charter by identifying actions within this summary to achieve these goals. We will monitor our performance in working with stakeholders on these activities to continuously improve RDA DDSW's effectiveness within the region.

1. Nation-building Infrastructure
2. Connectivity – Road, Rail, Air and Telecommunications
3. Innovation
4. Diversifying regional economies
5. Collaboration
6. Community Vitality

Cr Vic Pennisi GAICD
Chair – RDA Darling Downs & South West Qld



1. Maintain and keep current a three to five year regional plan (Roadmap) that focuses on economic development of their region, taking into account Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Government plans

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| Goal 1: Develop and update a regional roadmap as a key document to focus RDA action on regional priorities | | | |
| 1. Produce a roadmap document with appropriate engagement and consideration of priority issues | A roadmap that reflects and addresses key regional issues and priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The production of a quality roadmap document in line with federal government priorities, plans and policies Detailed review annually | |
| 2. Conduct a detailed review of the roadmap once per year and develop an annual action plan each year based on the updated roadmap. | Guiding RDA actions and measuring the performance of RDA in the region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the roadmap is incorporated into day to day RDA decision-making. The conduct of an annual review of the summary of the road map and production of a revised version by June 30 each year | |
| 3. Report to regional stakeholders on RDA activities by updating information on the RDA website and by conveying information in line with the communication plan. | Informed stakeholders with opportunities to collaborate with RDA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The level of reporting to stakeholders via the website and by activities outlined in the communication plan. | |

2. Economic Development and Community Vitality - Provide advice on priority activities that will drive economic development and take advantage of comparative advantages, based on consultation and engagement with community leaders.

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| Goal 1: Establish an effective data-hub. | | | |
| 1. Develop a data-hub of information that maps current infrastructure in the region. Ensure that the hub makes data appropriate and accessible to stakeholders. | Provide meaningful and accessible data to the federal government and regional stakeholders to support planning, policy and decision-making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the nature of a data-hub, its characteristics and the process for establishing it. The use and effectiveness of a data-hub for stakeholders involved in infrastructure development. | |
| 2. Develop a mapping tool to assess the vitality of communities. Make this available to communities to assess vitality and RDA's contribution to communities | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and develop an appropriate data platform, including a mapping tool. The production of maps of current infrastructure as required. | |
| 3. Develop a mapping tool to assess the vitality of communities. Make this available to communities to assess vitality and RDA's contribution to communities | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of the data-hub in identifying gaps that could be addressed to improve community vitality and economic growth. | |



| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| <p>Goal 2: Nation-building Infrastructure - To develop and maintain high quality infrastructure that enables economic development.</p> | | | |
| <p>1. Contribute to existing forums and groups to help coordinate advocacy and planning for on-going investment and development of infrastructure across the region. This includes roads, rail, telecommunications and water.</p> | <p>Provide ongoing information to federal government to inform decision-making and policies relevant to the region and maximise the benefits of funding investment and services.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contribution of RDA to infrastructure advocacy, planning and development. | |
| <p>2. Work with stakeholders to inform infrastructure providers of key locations (mapping) for improved telecommunications connectivity</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of information of locations for improved connectivity including mapping of telecommunications black spots | |
| <p>3. Facilitate opportunities from private providers to bring forward access to improved telecommunications services</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent of engagement and advocacy with private providers to improve access to services Improvements to telecommunications in the region as a result of RDAs advocacy | |
| <p>4. Advise government on the social and economic impacts of policy decisions such as the Murray Darling Basin Plan</p> | <p>Convey information about the MDBP impacts and support solutions for improvements to water accessibility and storage.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent of information and advocacy and support for improved water resources and infrastructure by RDA Improvements to water resources, availability and infrastructure in the region as a result of RDAs advocacy such as access to new water and innovative use of water. | |

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Goal 3: Innovation – To enhance innovation and entrepreneurship to underpin new opportunities and economic transition | | | |
| 1. Showcase innovative technologies, such as the REX data platform and the use of UAV's | Further develop DDSW as an innovative region with a culture of innovation and expertise in innovative technologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which spatial industry practices are promoted and supported by RDA | |
| 2. Increase exposure to our regional communities to programs such as Coder Do-jo, and Queensland State Library Coding and Robotics Program | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which innovative programs are developed and supported by RDA | |
| 3. Facilitate networks and collaboration between innovators and entrepreneurs | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which RDA acts to facilitate networks between innovators in the region | |
| 4. Facilitate new industries and businesses that are based on innovative technologies to diversify the economy, aligning with state and federal government programs. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which RDA facilitates the establishment of new businesses, and the expansion of existing businesses, based on innovation and the digital economy. RDA's ability to promote funding opportunities to the region. | |



| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| Goal 4: Diversification – Diversifying the regional economy | | | |
| 1. Collaborate with stakeholders to identify opportunities for diversification | Diversify the region's economy by actively developing new sectors while also fostering diversification within existing sectors such as; agriculture and agricultural services, resource development, health and education. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA's engagement of stakeholders and contribution to the identification of barriers and opportunities to diversification | |
| 2. Contribute to regional industry-specific plans that give a regional view in the development of specific sectors, such as tourism. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA's contribution to the development of industry specific plans for the development of specific sectors | |
| 3. Contribute to the development of tourism as a long term major industry that provides continuity of economic activity rather than as a supplement to other industries | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA's contribution to the development of tourism | |
| 4. Support industry development initiatives such as the re-development the wool industry and development of the macropod industry | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDA's contribution to the re-establishment of the wool industry and the macropod industry | |

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| Goal 5: Collaboration – Facilitate collaboration between stakeholders in the region | | | |
| 1. Engage regularly with organisations and stakeholders to openly share information and issues relevant to the federal government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating collaboration between stakeholders in the region by encouraging dialogue and a culture of open communication. Fostering a region of collaborative best practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of engagement contacts made by RDA and activities for information sharing that RDA has facilitated The effectiveness of information sharing facilitated by RDA | |
| 2. Regularly engage with all levels of government on RDA DDSW activities and priorities | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent of engagement between RDA and state and local government The information and engagement between RDA and federal government | |
| 3. Partner with stakeholders at forums and events, and support the events and forums of other organisations | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and effectiveness of collaborative events that RDA supports and is involved in. | |
| 4. Facilitate joint advocacy by the ten local governments in the region to have a "one view" approach to advocacy | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances of joint advocacy that RDA has contributed to. | |



| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| Goal 6: Contributing to the development of vibrant communities | | | |
| 1. Develop ways to measure and monitor the full social benefits of public investment and inform government about the full implications of policy (using data and research) | Enhancing regional and remote communities with increasing population, employment opportunities, services, social cohesion, leadership and where all citizens are valued and supported. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of methods and tools to measure and monitor the full social benefits of public investment The use of methods to inform government of the full implications of policy | |
| 2. Provide information to the federal government on education and training programs to assist formulate policy to support new human capital skills. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of information to the federal government re the development of new economy skills in the region | |

3. Assist local community stakeholders to develop project proposals and help shepherd them to appropriate public and/or private funding sources

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| Goal 1: To have stakeholders with a high level of awareness of funding programs | | | |
| 1. Conduct activities to make all stakeholders and potential proponents aware of funding programs and opportunities | Improve access to Federal and State Government funding programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which RDA provides information about funding opportunities The level of awareness in the region of federal funding opportunities | |
| Goal 2: To have high quality funding applications with effective business cases | | | |
| 1. Help proponents to access data to identify gaps and priorities for the development of projects. This includes having access to a data source such as ID Profile to inform proponents of the state of the region (and identify gaps for ID Profile to fill) | Assist regional stakeholders to develop high quality submissions and align their project to appropriate funding programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of proponents accessing data in the development of project proposals. | |
| 2. Facilitate workshops to increase application quality and the capacity of proponents to develop high quality proposals. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of workshops and other activities conducted to assist proponents | |
| 3. Provide a template for the development of business cases by proponents. Facilitate workshops that assist proponents to develop effective business cases for fundable projects | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of applications for funding, particularly the business case provided. | |



| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| Goal 3: To advocate for improvements to funding arrangements to improve effectiveness | | | |
| 1. Conduct stakeholder forums in conjunction with other organisations (such as DSD and USQ) to identify options to improve collaborative funding arrangements | Greater coordination of regional funding programs, chiefly to limit duplication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and effectiveness of forums conducted by RDA with regional stakeholders | |
| 2. Provide feedback to government on the effectiveness of funding programs and advocate for successful programs | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of feedback on funding programs | |

4. Providing advice to the Government on critical issues affecting the region

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Goal 1: To provide timely advice to government about critical issues | | | |
| 1. Develop and implement a communication plan and use it to maintain communication links with key Commonwealth agencies | The establishment of an effective network of contacts within government to assist with providing information on issues and projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The production of a communications plan The frequency of communication with Commonwealth agencies | |
| 2. Provide reports/data to elected representatives and government departments on critical issues raised by stakeholders including the results of forums. | | | |
| Goal 2: To engage with regional stakeholders to understand and convey critical issues | | | |
| 1. Conduct an Elected Officials Forum to gain information on issues and priorities from local government | Coordinated advocacy for on-going investment to improve connectivity for the region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an annual Elected Officials Forum Collate and convey issues from the forum. | |
| 2. Communicate to stakeholders the role of RDA in conveying stakeholder issues to government | Close engagement between stakeholders, including local government, across the region to ascertain and convey emerging or critical issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities undertaken to communicate the role of RDA in conveying issues to government | |
| 3. Conduct meetings with each of the ten local governments in the DDSW region at least once a year. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and effectiveness of meetings between RDA and the ten local governments | |



| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| <p>4. Develop a relationship with each regional Economic Development Officer in each of the ten local governments in the region.</p> | <p>Close engagement between stakeholders, including local government, across the region to ascertain and convey emerging or critical issues for them</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities to engage RDA with Economic Development Officers | |

5. Increasing Awareness of Government Programs

| RDA Action | Regional Benefit | RDA Performance Indicators | Comments or Achievements |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Goal 1: Information Dissemination - To have stakeholders in the region well informed of available government programs | | | |
| 1. Provide a means of disseminating data and information that increases awareness of government strategies and programs in the region. | Promote awareness of State and Commonwealth government programs and policies that directly benefit the economic, social and environmental performance of the region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of a means for the dissemination of data and information The level of community awareness of government programs shown by use of the portal | |
| 2. Facilitate information sessions about new programs and funding opportunities particularly to the regional communities | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of information sessions facilitated | |
| Goal 2: Profile - To have a high profile for RDA as a key source of information about government programs | | | |
| 1. Develop and implement a plan for media and communications in the region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have regional stakeholders with good awareness of government programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a media and communications plan and media policy | |
| 2. Maintain a high regional profile in the media. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional stakeholders being able to convey issues and information to federal government through RDA Establish RDA DDSW as the key "go-to" source for regional information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency of media contact | |

Contact Details

Executive Officer: Bryan Gray
Address: Level 1, 516 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350
Postal Address: PO Box 2519, Toowoomba BC Qld 4350
Telephone: (07) 46 38 0089
Mobile: 0414 568 936
Email: Bryan.gray@rda-ddsw.org.au
Website: www.rda-ddsw.org.au





Regional Development *Australia*

DARLING DOWNS
AND SOUTH WEST INC



An Australian Government Initiative