

**RDA Darling Downs &  
South West Qld Inc.  
2019 - 2020  
(1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020)  
Annual Report of Outcomes**



**Endorsement**

**The 2019 - 2020 (1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020) Annual Report on Outcomes for Regional Development Australia Darling Downs and South West has been endorsed as an accurate and a true reflection of the activities and analysis of our performance.**

**Signed on behalf of RDA DDSW:**

**Stuart MacKenzie – Deputy Chair**

*26 September 2020*

## 1. Key Achievements for 2019 - 2020

RDA DDSW dedicated 2019-20 to building and re-focusing its role and function in the region. The second half of 2019 saw RDA DDSW continue its re-engagement, including over 400 stakeholder meetings and facilitation of forums and roundtable events across the region. The first half of 2020 saw the effects of covid-19 restrictions. During this period RDA DDSW were able to utilize its strong relationships across the region to assist in the recovery efforts whilst planning for priority project post covid-19.

During 2019-20, RDA DDSW saw the new appointment of Cr Fiona Gaske as the Chair of the Committee and Kate Venables joining the committee. The RDA DDSW committee thanked Prof Jim Cavaye for his efforts in 2018-19 in redirecting the priorities of RDA DDSW and increasing its presence and relevance across the region as he stepped down from the role of Chair in August 2019. We also thanked Geraldine Doumany for her time on the committee as she left the committee due to health reasons. During the second half of 2019, each board member continued their ‘friend relationship’ with one or two councils within the region to ensure local government had consistent RDA DDSW board presence.

For 2019, the board continued with its four priority portfolios for the region with two board members assigned to each portfolio –

1. Employment and Skills
2. Investment Attraction
3. Value Chains, Market Development and Logistics
4. Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Disruption

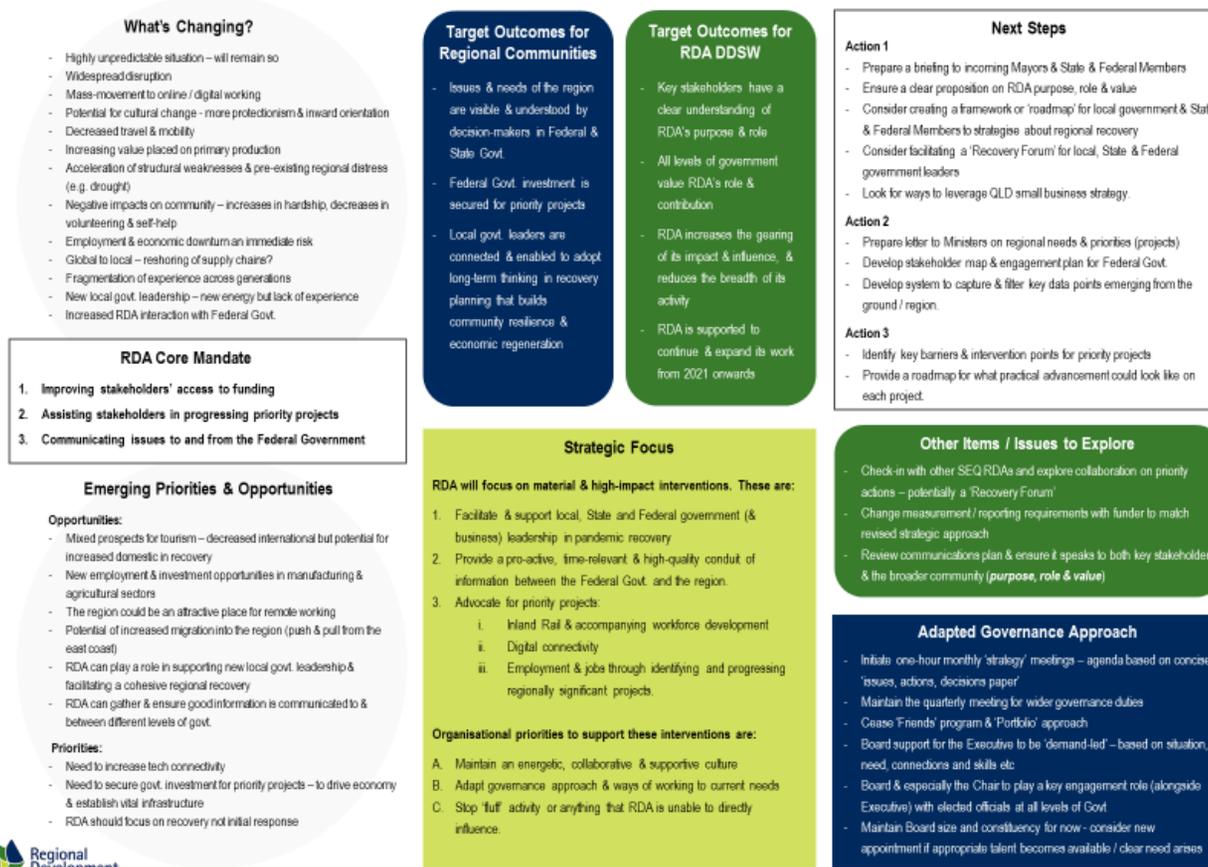
A new Director of Regional Development was appointed in August 2018, replacing the former Executive Officer position. The key focus for the Director of Regional Development, has been to continue the re-engagement efforts of 2018-19 with all levels of government across the region, business, industry and community. Over 400 stakeholder meetings have resulted in RDA DDSW having a greater presence and becoming a ‘go-to organisation’ to assist in progressing projects and connecting with grants and government programs. These already established strong relationships were extremely valuable during the covid-19 lockdown in 2020, as RDA DDSW were able to call on key stakeholders across the region and feedback to The Hon Nola Marino MP and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC) relevant issues, solutions, priority projects and recovery opportunities.

The re-engagement strategy of 2018-19, highlighted the need for administration support for the Director of Regional Development and Committee members as RDA DDSW became the ‘go-to organisation’ with an increase in enquiries, connections and project support. In July 2019, a part-time administration assistant was recruited. This additional support has resulted in a “Funding” tab on our website with up-to-date grant opportunities and an “Assistance” tab on our website. Feedback from stakeholders is that these tabs have been vital, particularly during the drought followed by the bushfires and then again during covid-19. Many organisations have shared these comprehensive summary tabs in their newsletters, thus increasing the number of businesses, not-for-profits and individuals who were able to access government grants and programs.

As with all organisations, covid-19 saw the need to make changes to our business plan and strategy. The RDA DDSW Committee decided to focus on regional development rather than regional survival during this period whilst supporting those organisations that were providing survival support.

In April 2020, the RDA DDSW Committee held a strategy session to reset priorities and a strategy for covid-19 recovery. The strategy is summarized below –

### Regional Development Australia DDSW: **Strategy Snapshot 2020** (post-Coronavirus)



RDA DDSW's key achievement for 2019-20 were -

- Leading and facilitating the Toowoomba Employment Roundtable
- Sponsoring the Inland Rail Conference
- Partnering with Jobs Qld and Toowoomba Regional Council to promote, MC and co-ordinate the “Exploring Toowoomba’s Bold Ambitions” event
- Showcasing the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing Collaborative Business Advisory Group at the National RDA Conference
- Leading and facilitating the Migration Forum
- Partnering with USQ to establish the Student Innovation Challenge with a focus on Waste, as a result of the working group formed at the RDA DDSW Five Issues Forums
- Alliance involvement, including SEQ RDA Alliance, DDSW Council of Mayors, South West Regional Economic Development and Border Region Organisation of Councils
- Leading and facilitating the Waste Forum
- Being awarded the contract from the Department Employment, Small Business and Training to facilitate the Toowoomba Regional Jobs Committee
- Partnering with USQ to MC the Digital Connectivity Webinar, showcasing research supporting the importance of digital connectivity in rural and remote Queensland
- Founding member and key involvement in Growing Toowoomba group
- Committee member on the National Centre for Policy Development’s Cities and Settlement group
- Supporting the launch of the Major Projects Pipeline Report
- Creating and co-chairing with TIQ the DDSW Trade and Investment Group
- Involvement in the Recovery Plans for both Darling Downs and South West
- Support and promotion of the Australian Small Business Advisory Service
- Showcasing Federal and State programs and grants through the “Guide to Grants” events held in Toowoomba, Charleville, Roma, Dalby, Inglewood and Stanthorpe
- Funding twelve portals of id profile to provide data to support grant applications and business cases
- Key committee position and promotion of the DDSW STEM Hub committee
- Multiple facilitation commitments across the region including Maranoa’s Innovation Forum, Roma’s Business Excellence Program strategy meeting
- Continued support of Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan
- Involvement in various judging of awards and positions on grant assessment teams across the Darling Downs and South West
- Lifting RDA DDSW’s profile by guest speaking at various events across our region and nationally including Stanthorpe Business Excellence Awards, USQ Vice Chancellor’s Luncheon, Western Downs Regional Chambers meeting, Welcoming Cities Symposium and SEGRAs Conversations for Regional Australia.

## 2. Key Projects and Case Studies from 2019 – 2020

### PROMOTION OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

RDA DDSW utilises its strong relationships with key stakeholders across the region to support Government funded projects, funding and priorities. Please see below a small sample of quotes from key stakeholders about RDA DDSW's support and/or involvement with activities in the 2019 – 2020 financial year.

#### Government Guide to Grants Roadshow

RDA DDSW was an integral part of the March 2020 Southern Queensland Business Roadshow, which delivered information on government grants and support to businesses in ten regional towns across four days. RDA DDSW Director Trudi Bartlett showed commendable professionalism and enthusiasm throughout the planning and delivery of roadshow in her dealings with business attendees and other stakeholders. Trudi delivered excellent content to businesses, connected them with government officials who were best placed to support them, and helped to promote individual sessions, all of which contributed to the success of the Roadshow.

#### **Josh Sorensen**

Assistant Regional Manager – Southern Queensland & Northern Coastal NSW

AusIndustry – Support for Business

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

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#### University of Southern Queensland

The DD & SW RDA is key partner of the Rural Economies Centre for Excellence and USQ. Under Trudi Bartlett's excellent leadership RECoE and RDA have collaborated on a number of regional development projects in 2019/20. Notably in the digital connectivity space which culminated in one of our largest and most engaging webinars during COVID lockdown which was on regions and the challenges of achieving digital connectivity. Together we have also looked at issues such as waste to energy and communities in transition in the regional context. Many of our regions in the DD&SW face similar, long term challenges and working with RDA in finding solutions has been rewarding experience. The opportunities for regions to thrive is very real but to look at these opportunities as a single region or entity will be fruitless, we need collaborative platforms such as RDA to bring the various stakeholders together and focus our resources on finding place-based, practical and actionable

solutions]. I think the Five Issues Forum work commenced in 2019 and following on into 2020 led by RDA has been but one example of this work and I hope to see it continue.



**Associate Professor Ben Lyons** | Director

| Rural Economies Centre of Excellence | Institute of Resilient Regions | University of Southern Queensland

#### SEGRA COVID Recovery Conversations Webinars

Kate Charters (Director of Management Solutions and Founding Member of SEGRA) and I would like to thank the DD&SW RDA for participating the COVID 19 Virtual conversation series facilitated by SEGRA from March – July 2020. It was helpful and informative for the SEGRA community to hear first hand as to the unfolding impacts of COVID in your region. Your input leading up to the session and subsequent conversations about local economic development issues have assisted SEGRA in collating a broad view of COVID related issues and potential actions for transitioning into a Post COVID economy.

**Robert Prestipino** RLA MPIA ACEcD  
Vital Places - Project Director



### Economic Security4Women Connection Program

RDA DDSW supported the Australian Government funded, Economic Security4Women Connection Program by circulating the program throughout its community. Consequently, businesses from the region were successful in being accepted into the program. This program specifically targets businesses in very remote, drought affected Queensland. Through RDA DDSW, and their wonderful relationships within the community, this program can help profile the region and connect the business owners with national networks.



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### ASBAS

During 2019 -2020, RDA DDSW supported the Federal Government funded Australian Small Business Advisory Service. During the financial year, there were 219 businesses that connected with the ASBAS services, many through RDA DDSW's promotion of the program. This level of activity is significant increase from the current 2018-29 financial year with additional facilitation and marketing of the program in our region by RDA DDSW.

RDA DDSW facilitated the delivery of the ASBAS Digital Solutions program in the region (in a collaborative arrangement with RDA Brisbane, which is contracted to deliver the program throughout Queensland). RDA DDSW facilitated key meetings between the ASBAS consultant by bringing stakeholders together. RDA DDSW also promoted the ASBAS program with articles in our newsletters, social media posts and by forwarding the EOI for advisors to our networks.

With the establishment of the program's delivery in DDSW region during the financial year, RDA DDSW assisted to connect 219 small businesses with ASBAS Digital Solutions services in the region, thereby providing them with low cost, high quality advice on a range of digital solutions to help them meet their business needs and grow their digital capabilities.

RDA DDSW also brokered a partnership with the Western Downs Regional Council to utilise ASBAS services as part of their economic stimulus measures to help local businesses recover from the COVID lockdown restrictions. Although the services were delivered in the 20-21FY, the partnership was brokered in the 2019 – 20 financial year.

### DATA SUPPOSITORY - ID PROFILE – FUNDING AND TRAINING

RDA DDSW has facilitated a proposal with ID Profile for the provision of Economy and Community ID for each of the 10 councils. The deal with ID, and RDA DDSW's contribution, has allowed all councils to access ID for a significantly reduced price. This project allowed councils access to quality economic and community data and also an input data modelling section that provided quantifiable data which was included in report and funding applications. Additionally, the project allowed the provision of training allowing all 10 councils the ability to access face-to-face and webinar training ensuring continued knowledge and development for the users. The project and RDA's contribution meant individual councils had access to ID at nearly a third of the price if they were to purchase individually.

RDA DDSW facilitated ID Profile delivering face-to-face training across the region and online webinars allowed councils and community groups to access additional training. In 2019, RDA DDSW identified that councils in the South West part of our region, needed an additional portal for the South West Regional Economic Development group. Councils in SWRED, had an option to use their council data or Darling Downs South West data, which was not indicative of the region. RDA DDSW funded an additional portal for SWRED to ensure Councils in this region had an additional portal. See the link to RDA DDSW's ID Profile data here - <http://economy.id.com.au/rda-dd-sw>

### LIFEFLIGHT REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As a member of the LifeFlight Regional Advisory Committee for the Darling Downs and South West Region our role is to build LifeFlight's community development capabilities in key regions of operation to work toward our vision that all Queensland families will have equal access to emergency, lifesaving aeromedical care.

RAC members support LifeFlight by:

- Offering fresh insights and thinking on emerging issues in the local community that may impact on our work or service
- Facilitating introductions to potential new business supporters and individual donors
- Providing input, skills and knowledge towards specific projects as required
- Enhancing the organisation's reputation and credibility in the local region

This year the successes of this group included:

1. The Toowoomba Gala Ball which provided \$355,000 in donations for LifeFlight's local rescue service.
2. The development of the Fuelies campaign which aims to raise more than \$300,000 in donations to help keep the helicopter flying.
3. The establishment of the local ambassador program throughout the region which aims to extend LifeFlight's community reach through key locations.
4. The establishment of the Maranoa RAC group which has recently taken on a project to fund the proposed new hangar facility at the Roma Airport.



RDA DDSW Director of Regional Development, Trudi Bartlett and LifeFlight Director of Community Development, Leanne Angel, launch the new Fuelies fund raising campaign facilitated and supported by RDA DDSW

## USQ STUDENT INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Please see below information from Phoebe Tully from USQ in regards to the USQ Student Innovation Challenge partnership.

The RDA partnered with USQ to provide students with real-world industry experience and networking. The RDA Innovation Challenge saw students workshop an authentic problem: waste management. The challenge included industry mentors and real stakeholders from Toowoomba Regional Council, Inland Rail and more. The students used design thinking methodology to ideate potential solutions to this sticky problem.

Partnering with the RDA gave our students the opportunity to work alongside industry people as colleagues, and to understand how big problems are solved in the real world. It was a priceless experience for them in their career development.

### **Phoebe Tully**

Senior Project Coordinator (Entrepreneurship)  
Ignition Project | Careers & Employability

**Please note that I am not in the office on Wednesdays.**

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RDA DDSW Director of Regional Development, Trudi Bartlett with guest speakers and the USQ Students at the Waste Forum.

### EXPLORING TOOWOOMBA'S BOLD AMBITIONS

Regional Development Australia Darling Downs South West (RDA DDSW) is an important regional partner for and collaborator with Jobs Queensland.

Jobs Queensland partnered with RDA DDSW and Toowoomba Regional Council to host *Exploring Toowoomba's Bold Ambitions* in December 2019.

This was a collaborative event that brought together local key stakeholders to engage in discussions around driving regional workforce planning in the Toowoomba region. RDA DDSW's knowledge of their vast region, varying population centres and diverse economic contributors really helped emphasise the focus points for a place-based workforce development plan linked to economic development.

Jobs Queensland is also a member of the Toowoomba Regional Jobs Committee, facilitated by RDA DDSW, which really focuses on the importance of place-based skills and employment strategies, and ensuring the region has the skilled workforce for the jobs available now and into the future. RDA DDSW has shown their true value in identifying and bringing together a number of local representatives and organisations to support the growth and development of the region.

It has been a pleasure to work with the team, and Jobs Queensland looks forward to continuing to work with RDA DDSW into the future.

*Brad Flanagan, Director, Strategic Development and Engagement*

*Di Fairweather, Senior Engagement Officer*

**Jobs Queensland**

## Exploring Toowoomba's **Bold Ambitions**

3 December 2019



Please see the Eventbrite link for the event –

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/exploring-toowoombas-bold-ambitions-tickets-80175141005>

## STEM HUB

RDA DDSW were a foundation partner in the Darling Downs and South West STEM Hub. This project now sits under the Employment and Skills Portfolio.

In 2019-20, RDA DDSW were a key stakeholder in refocussing this group, including the establishment and administration of the STEM Hub page - [www.facebook.com/STEMhub DDSW](https://www.facebook.com/STEMhubDDSW)

Please see below two testimonials in regards to RDA DDSW's role in the Darling Downs and South West STEM Hub

Regional Development Australia DDSW plays a vital role in the DDSW STEM Hub. It has always been influential in distributing information, but since Trudi Bartlett has been the director, they have taken on a very positive leadership role. Trudi has been crucial to leading the Hub to the next level. Not only has she done significant paper work but her contacts and guidance have been invaluable. The Hub now has a much clearer vision and a better overall focus on the whole region, not just Toowoomba, because of the RDA. Additionally, we are now putting more energy into linking up with major businesses and organisations, who are STEM orientated.

Cheers,  
Tony  
**Tony Coonan**  
Learning Officer



Regional Development Australia has been an active member of the Darling Downs South West STEM Hub since its inception in 2016. Their role has ranged from disseminating information and providing advice, to recently taking a leadership role in the Hub. This is having a very beneficial impact on supporting the operations of the Hub and helping to drive its future direction in line with the overall direction of the Darling Downs South West Region.

Cheers  
Shelley

**Shelley Dunlop**  
Project Manager, Future Makers



## IQRAP

RDA DDSW has continued to support the Inland Queensland Road Action Project in 2019 – 2020. This is a significant collaborative project involving four RDA's, thirty Local Government's, Regional Roads and Transport Groups (RRTG's) and the RACQ.

The IQRAP working group is an initiative of the RDAs of Townsville and North West, Far North Qld and Torres Strait, Fitzroy and Central West, Mackay-Isaac-Whitsundays and Darling Downs and South West Qld. The RDAs identified the opportunity for a more strategic and collaborative approach towards the maintenance and construction of the inland road network of Queensland. Underpinning the working group was the need for an 'Action Plan' which is now financially supported by LGA's, RACQ, Regional Roads and Transport Groups (RRTG's) and RDA's.

The plan/strategy prioritised key transport routes and projects to improve productivity and safety on regional and remote Qld roads. The plan assisted stakeholders advocate for funds for road construction and maintenance in their areas and better inform State and Federal Governments and Roads groups.

RDA DDSW provided initial seed funding of \$11,000 in the 2015-2016 period. Although we have not been a financial partner since then we have continued to support the advocacy efforts to secure more funding into the inland road network. Our local efforts have included supporting the six local councils across the IQRAP foot print, i.e. Bulloo, Balonne, Quilpie, Murweh, Maranoa and Paroo.

RDA Townsville and North West Queensland has continued as the Secretariat and Project Manager since 2013. Their recent report indicates that nearly \$1.4 billion in funding has been secured for inland Queensland road priorities since advocacy began after the launch of the first plan in February 2016. There is currently a renewal process occurring for IQ-RAP partners to sign on to update the evidence base to support advocacy in 2021-22.

## COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

RDA DDSW implemented a formal communications strategy in 2019 - 20, with a heavy focus on social media, database management and web content. The organisation is now active on four of the major social media platforms, being Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. The latter three platforms have all been set up late in the 2020 year, with concerted efforts continuing to grow the reach of each one. Due to it being in use for some time before the others, Facebook remains the organisation's main social media outlet for the time being.

### Social Media Reach

Facebook – 1,493 followers

Twitter – 46 followers

LinkedIn – 60 followers

Instagram – 31 followers

The strategy will also see RDA DDSW branch out into video and audio based communications with a YouTube channel and a regular podcast to be implemented in future.

RDA DDSW's contact database has seen significant growth in 2020, and currently stands at 3,471 subscribers – up from approximately 400 in the previous year. This database is used for promoting important events to the region, sending out information on available grant funding (sent monthly) and sending out newsletters about RDA DDSW activities.

The RDA DDSW website has been a strong focus throughout the year with content updated regularly to ensure the region has access to relevant and up-to-date information. This has been extremely important considering the COVID-19 pandemic, which came on the heels of flooding and bushfires in the region.

A 'Disaster Assistance Recovery' page was added to the RDA DDSW website to provide information on:

- Federal, State and Local Government Assistance
- Federal, State and Local Government Stimulus Packages
- Restrictions and Border Closures
- Information for affected employers and workers
- Information for affected visa holders
- Working from home information
- Support Agency details

The website is also used to promote available grants and funding opportunities for the region, update monthly, as well as providing general information about the region, the RDA DDSW committee and TDA DDSW projects and initiatives. A project is underway to modernise the RDA DDSW website to enhance the users experience, and to streamline the updating processes to ensure efficient operation.

### 3. Table of Outcomes, Activities and Performance Measures

#### Summary - Regional Priorities

Summary of top 5 strategic priorities	Summary of 6 funded outcome themes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connection, Collaboration, Communication</li> <li>2. Employment and Skills</li> <li>3. Investment Attraction</li> <li>4. Value Chains, Market Development and Logistics</li> <li>5. Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Disruption</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased economic opportunities and investment in DDSW</li> <li>2. Increased trade and job creation</li> <li>3. Cooperative effort with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders leads to improved economic development outcomes</li> <li>4. Achieve Government program objectives</li> <li>5. Maximise access to Government programs and grants</li> <li>6. Advice supports development outcomes</li> </ol>
<p><b>Summary of top 5 key business activities</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholder Engagement Meetings</li> <li>2. Five Issues Forum (FIF)</li> <li>3. Employment Roundtables</li> <li>4. Migration Roundtable</li> <li>5. Investment and Population Attraction Prospectus</li> </ol>	

What will we do?	RDA Role Lead/ support	Timeframe	Expected Outcomes	Funding Agreement Outcome No.	What we did
Five Issues Forum (FIF)	Lead	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2020	Facilitate the FIF to develop and maintain positive, collaborative, working relationships and partnerships with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders to address identified gaps or needs in economic development activity.	3  6	Due to covid-19, the Five Issues Forum was not held. The RDA DDSW Committee replaced the FIF by being involved in strategic recovery work across the region, including involvement with the Darling Downs Recovery Strategy and the South West Recovery Strategy.
Stakeholder Meetings	Lead	2019-20	Comprehensive communication strategy to raise awareness and assist in delivery of Commonwealth programs. Promote and disseminate information on Commonwealth policies and grant programs and support community stakeholders in our region to develop project proposals to access funding. Provide information on regional activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors.	4-6	Please see the Communication Strategy in section 2 summarized above.  The highlights were – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the database to 3471</li> <li>• Facebook reach 1493</li> <li>• Creation of an assistance page summarizing Federal, State and Local programs</li> <li>• Creation of a grants page</li> </ul>
Monthly Newsletter	Lead	2019-20			
Website Development	Lead	2019-20			
Social Media	Lead	2019-20			

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What will we do?	RDA Role Lead/ support	Timeframe	Expected Outcomes	Funding Agreement Outcome No.	What we did
Id profile \$ and training	Lead	2019-20	Provide data to support local government, business, industry and community stakeholders in our region to develop evidence-based project proposals to access funding. Provide evidence-based advice to the Commonwealth on critical regional development issues	5 6	See Summary in section 2 above.
SWRED project officer \$ and mentoring	Support	2019-20	Develop and maintain positive, collaborative, working relationships and partnerships with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders to address identified gaps or needs in economic development activity.	3	RDA DDSW supported South West Regional Economic Development throughout 2019 – 2020, including attendance at quarterly meetings, letters of support, connections with stakeholders.
Reports and Submissions (inc Zonal Tax FIF)	Lead, Support & Coordinate	2019-20	Compile from stakeholder meetings on the ground feedback along-side evidence-based information to complete reports and government submissions.	6	A number of submissions were forwarded through our network of 3,471 subscribers to ensure feedback was gathered from the Darling Downs and South West.
Delegation to Canberra	Lead Coordinator	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2019	Facilitate a stakeholder delegation to Canberra to provide information on regional activities and competitive advantages to all the Commonwealth Government.	6	This was originally delayed to 2020, which was then delayed due to covid-19
Population Attraction Prospectus (FIF)	Lead Coordinator	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2020	Produce a region wide prospectus integrating population, employment and investment.	2	Information has been gathered from across the Darling Downs and South West ready for new pages on the RDA DDSW website. These pages will include Live, Work, Invest and Visit information.

Toowoomba Employment Roundtable	Lead & Partners	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2019	Facilitate workshops to bring together stakeholders to work better together and address employment and skills gaps in the region.	2	RDA DDSW held an Employment Roundtable in Toowoomba with over 25 stakeholders attending.
West Employment Roundtable	Lead & Partners	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2019	Promote government employment programs.	4	 Employment Roundtable Flyer 2 (2).pdf
Migration Roundtable	Lead & Partners	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2019	Facilitate workshops to bring together stakeholders to work better together, assess gaps and duplication in migration services and address the opportunity for secondary settlement of migrants to fill employment and skills gaps in the broader region.	2 3	RDA DDSW held a Migration Forum with over 70 guests in attendance.   Migration Roundtable Flyer 1 (2).pdf
Working Groups created at above Roundtables	Lead Coordinator	2020	Coordinate actions from the employment and migration working groups.	2	RDA DDSW worked with stakeholders following the Employment Roundtable and the Migration Roundtable. This resulted in RDA DDSW working closely with Welcoming Cities development of a welcoming pack and RDA DDSW being a member of the Centre for Policy Development's Cities and Settlement project.
TIQ/RDA co-Chair Trade & Investment Group	Lead & Partner TIQ	Establish 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2019	Increase connection with industry sector, international trade partners and financial markets to grow local jobs.	1	RDA DDSW partnered with TIQ to hold our first Trade and Investment Group meeting with over 15 economic development professionals across Darling Downs and South West in attendance. Information has been gathered from across the Darling Downs and South West ready for new pages on the RDA DDSW website.
Regional Investment Attraction Prospectus (FIF)	Lead Coordinator	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2020	Produce a region wide investment prospectus.	2	

					These pages will include Live, Work, Invest and Visit information.
Production over Population Business Case (FIF)	Lead Coordinator	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2020	Provide data and an evidence-base business case to increase economic opportunities, investment and funding to the region.		
Rail – SW Rail, W Rail opportunities - Inland Rail Conference Sponsorship	Support	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2019	Increase number of local businesses benefitting from the construction phase of inland rail & use of rail in general. Support the private public partnership.	1	RDA DDSW sponsored the Inland Rail Conference, which had over 300 in attendance.
Transport & Logistics Working Group (FIF)	Support Coordinator	2019-20	Support the BROCC in its approach to cross border transport challenges.	3	RDA DDSW has continued to work with the Border Region Organisation of Councils to support their border transport challenges.
Export Innovation Hub and Emerging Exporters	Support	2019-20	Increase number of business exporting.  Increase business acumen.	1	RDA DDSW has continued to support the Export Innovation Hub and Emerging Exporters programs.
Digital Connectivity Working Group (FIF)	Lead Coordinator	2019-20	Summarise the current state of play with DDSW connectivity.  Raise awareness and support business and industry in best utilising improved digital connectivity opportunities.	6 3	RDA DDSW has lead the digital connectivity working group resulting in the second USQ Innovation Challenge focusing on solutions to rural and remote connectivity. We also facilitated a webinar in partnership with USQ showcasing digital connectivity research.
Waste Management Working Group (FIF)	Lead Coordinator	2019-20	RDA DDSW to facilitate a roundtable between all relevant stakeholder to progress collaboration with existing waste management priorities.  Aggregate waste volume, identify potential new waste investment.	1	RDA DDSW has lead the waste management working group which resulted in the Waste Forum.   What A Waste Forum 2019.pdf

ARIP Programs and Regional Innovation Hubs	Support	2019-20	<p>Increase of start-up businesses.</p> <p>Increase in business acumen.</p> <p>Increase connection with regional entrepreneurs to grow local jobs.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p>	RDA DDSW continued to support the ARIP funded Innovation programs through our social media and database.
Meshing the Grid SWRED (FIF)	Support Coordinator	2019-20	Support SWRED in developing an evidence-based proposal to advocate for meshing the energy grid through the SW region.	<p>3</p> <p>6</p>	RDA DDSW continued to support SWRED’s Meshing the Grid activities by attending their meetings, connecting with stakeholders and letters of support.

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