



The Hon Nola Marino MP

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Federal Member for Forrest

MEDIA RELEASE

RDA HUNTER SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of RDA Hunter in supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Led by Chair Mr John Turner, RDA Hunter's engagement with their community, businesses and all levels of Government has been vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

This work is important to managing impacts and ensuring communities and businesses are able to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Key activities being undertaken by RDA Hunter include:

- Developed and delivered, in partnership with Lockheed Martin Australia, the STEMstart workforce development program, via a webinar which received 50 registrations;
- Converting learning materials to a digital format and using online platforms to ensure the delivery of school-based programs was not interrupted during the lockdown. These programs include the School Pathways Program, which supports the development of a future skilled workforce for the Defence industry, and the Pathways to Resource Industry and Mining Employment project, being delivered with the NSW Minerals Council; and
- Consulting with a wide range of stakeholders to identify the region's priority infrastructure needs, and supporting industry to grow businesses, capabilities and jobs.

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) have played and continue to play an important role in delivering sustainable infrastructure and services to their region. These Committees deliver important work in consulting with communities, promoting and participating in regional initiatives, and providing information and advice on their region to all levels of Government.

Since late March I have been holding regular teleconferences with RDA representatives three times a week. These conversations provided first-hand insights into how local communities are coping, and the impact and effectiveness of Government response measures. This local intelligence is provided directly to Government ministers and agencies to inform policymaking.

I want to thank the RDA Hunter committee members and staff for their work in driving positive change in your local communities.

If you would like to learn more about how RDA Hunter is able to assist you, visit its website at www.rdahunter.org.au/.

Further information about the RDA program is available at www.rda.gov.au.