

### **ANNUAL REPORT**





### **KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula would like to acknowledge the support of our key stakeholders:



An Australian Government Initiative



Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association







DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CLEVE

















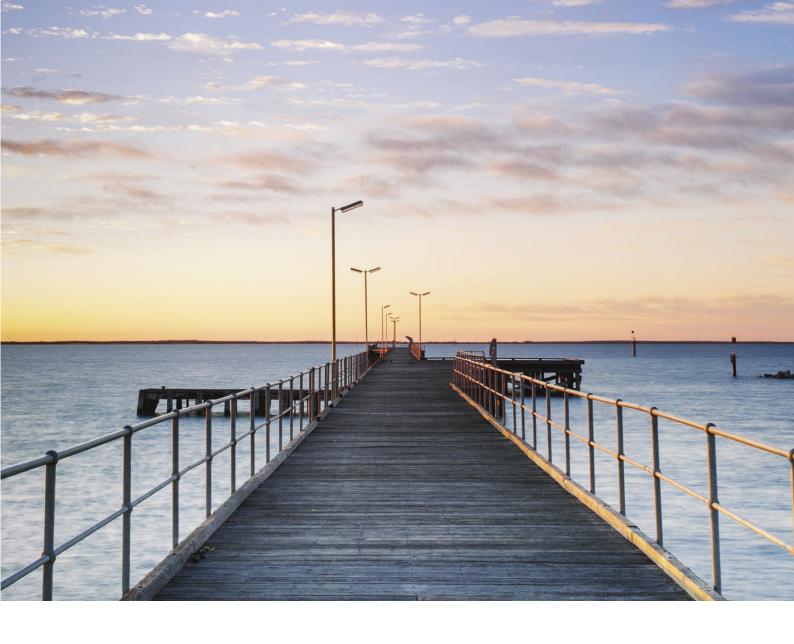
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# **1. STRATEGIC CONTEXT**



### **1.1 CHAIR'S LETTER**

During 2018 a new Board was appointed to Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Inc [RDAWEP] due to term expiration, with the number of Board Members being reduced from 13 to 9. From the 19 applications received, the panel has been able to fulfil all the skills and requirements that were determined by the Federal Government.



RDAWEP has 3 levels of funding from the Federal Government, the South Australian State Government and the 11 Local Governments on Eyre Peninsula. RDAWEP has been able to secure long term funding from both the Federal and State Governments in the past year and is currently working with the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association on a funding model beyond 30 June 2019.

2017-2018 has been a year of very intense activities and challenges, the details of which are listed within the Summary of Key Achievements 2017-2018 contained in this Annual Report, which I recommend to you.

The very dry start to the year for farmers on the eastern and upper Eyre Peninsula is causing significant strain on not only the farming families, but also the main street traders in each of the towns in that area. If businesses cease because of the downturn, then they are generally not replaced and the job loss and loss of people from the district has, and will continue to have, a profound effect on one of our region's major industries. The loss of spat and huge reduction in numbers in the oyster industry is also having a similar effect. Fortunately the lower Eyre Peninsula is experiencing quite a good year, so there will be feed and grain available for livestock in the region when required.

In the past [20 years ago] BHP at Whyalla was exceptional with taking on apprentices which, following graduation, enhanced the workforce. Due to the competitive worldwide market in the steel industry, as well as the global financial crisis in 2007-2008, the number of apprenticeships signed on reduced to almost nil. With the advent of GFG buying into the steelworks and the new proposed high school in Whyalla, we will witness the return of essential training for young people in the near future. Although the jobs will be more diverse, it will allow us to enter into a very exciting future for Whyalla and the Eyre Peninsula.

Another major focus has been oil and gas exploration in the Great Australian Bight, and RDAWEP being the lead agency in regional economic development, Board Members determined that a process be undertaken to source all relevant data to have a full understanding of any proposed exploration and how it may affect our region should it proceed. A program has been set out whereby RDAWEP has had communications with the oil industry, followed by an invitation sent to the regulators for the Australian and South Australian Governments to meet with the Board. An opportunity will also be provided to the people who are opposed to oil and gas exploration in the Bight to present to the Board.

In closing I would like to sincerely thank Member Councils and the State and Federal Governments for their ongoing support. A special mention to Dion and his staff for the tremendous work they have done and pressures endured during 2017-2018.

I look forward to working with the new Board and continuing our efforts in ensuring this region remains the most productive and diverse region in the state, if not the country, enhanced by the proactive, dedicated and enthusiastic leaders of our community.

BRYAN TRIGG AFSM CHAIR

# PROGRESS LEADERSHIP

### **1.2 DIRECTOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT**



I am pleased to present to you the 2017/18 Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) Annual Report.

This report reflects on the achievements of the 2017/18 financial year and details on how RDAWEP delivered on a range of economic development initiatives and projects.

The 2017/18 financial year has been a busy and extremely productive year for RDAWEP. The year saw significant advancement on a number of the region's long term economic constraints in the areas of energy, water, telecommunications and economic diversity.

Electranet has actively explored options to upgrade the Eyre Peninsula's electricity transmission lines, in order to deliver more reliable power supply and place downward pressure on energy costs. This is likely to see up to \$300m in new infrastructure investment over the coming years.

After facing substantial challenges, it was also a year where the City of Whyalla began to see a new future under the guidance and investment from GFG Alliance and the Gupta family. Interest and investment into the city continued throughout the year and is greatly assisting the economic diversification of the region's largest city. Additionally RDAWEP worked with industry, the Regional Jobs and Investment Programme (RJIP) Steering Committee and Member for Grey Mr Rowan Ramsey MP to secure \$30m of new business investment into the city.

RDAWEP continued to advocate for regional water security, including the development of a water desalination plant to augment the region's scarce ground water supplies. In a first for South Australia, RDAWEP, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Communities of the Far West Coast, developed the State's only Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, with the aim of enhancing and promoting the Far West of South Australia as a unique and culturally diverse tourism destination.

The District Council of Elliston, in collaboration with RDAWEP and Telstra, prepared a successful Building Better Regions Fund grant application, which provided installation of vital communications to the district by way of optic fibre, transmission equipment and tower upgrades.

At the end of June 2018, the organisation's financial position remains strong. Across all financial reporting indicators RDAWEP has achieved solid results however these outcomes continue to remain reliant on funding agreements with the 3 levels of government.

Our staff are critical to the delivery of services, programs and support. RDAWEP experienced very little staff changes in 2017/18 reflecting a healthy, safe and respectful workplace, which is a significant contributing factor in the delivery of those services.

I would like to acknowledge our Board, our partner Councils, government stakeholders, regional communities and businesses, and our staff who have contributed to delivering our organisation's vision and plan.

#### DION DORWARD DIRECTOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# TEAMWORK PARTNERS COLLABORATION



### **1.3 BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF**



Bryan Trigg Chairman



Allan Suter **Executive Member** 



**Heather Baldock** 



**Malcolm Catt** Deputy Chair



**Clare McLaughlin** 



Matt Waller

Dion Dorward	Chief Executive Officer
Alex Todd	Economic Development Manage – Whyalla (fin. 02/03/18)
David Penfold	Economic Development Manage - Whyalla
Peter Scott	Economic Development Manage - Eyre
Peter Mitchell	Employment and Skills Development Manager – Eyre
Howard Coote	Indigenous Economic Development Manager
Brad Riddle	Tourism Development Manager
Paula Wilson	Career Practitioner - Career



**Deidre Turvey** Treasurer



**Colin Carter** 



Matt Enbom

Bob Ramsay	Special Projects Manager (fin. 08/03/18)
Jade Ballantine	Special Projects Officer
Bronwen Caple	NDIS Workforce Project Manager
Bes Abdic	Marketing Coordinator
Roger Paul	Manager Corporate Services
Aina Danis	Executive Assistant – Eyre
Sandy Jones	Administration Officer – Whyalla
Sue Henriksen	Administration Officer – Eyre
Bonnie Hill	Administration Officer – Eyre
Nicole Ettridge	Administration Officer - Eyre

Jack Velthuizen **Executive Member** 



Kate McShane

### **1.4 ABOUT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA**

Regional Development Australia is an Australian Government initiative that brings together all levels of government to enhance the development of Australia's regions. Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula is part of a national network of 52 RDA committees that has been established to achieve this objective.

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) works with all levels of government, business and community to support the economic growth of our region. We are funded by the Australian and South Australian Governments, as well as all eleven local councils as members of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association.

Following an independent review into RDAs, a new charter was announced in August 2017.

#### STRONG, CONFIDENT AND VIBRANT REGIONS

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role in their communities and a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment.



Working in close partnership with fellow RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees will:

- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to identify economic opportunities and leverage private and public sector investment to the regions;
- Connect regional businesses, councils and industry sectors with international trade partners, financial markets and potential investors;
- Promote and disseminate information on Australian Government policies and grant programs to state and local governments and industry, business and community sectors;
- Support community stakeholders to develop project proposals to access funding;
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with the local government bodies in their regions;
- Facilitate public and private sector decentralisation;
- **7.** Assist in the delivery of Australian Government programs, where relevant and where requested by the Minister;
- Engage with regional entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders to explore new opportunities to grow local jobs in their regions;
- Provide information on their region's activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors; and
- Provide evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on critical regional development issues positively and negatively affecting their regions.

#### Minister for Regional Development, August 2017

### **1.5 OUR VISION**

### QUALITY

Quality is a distinctive regional characteristic. The region is renowned for its premium seafood, high quality agricultural product, and the pristine nature of its landscapes, seascapes and conservation parks. The region also has some of the world's highest quality mineral resources.



### **1.6 REGIONAL SNAPSHOT**

235,000km<sup>2</sup> 23% of SA

TOTAL SIZE OF RDA WHYALLA AND EYRE PENINSULA REGION

PERCENTAGE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S TOTAL LAND MASS

# 56,613

63.3%

live in Whyalla + Port Lincoln

### REGION'S POPULATION

5.6% are Aboriginal people



**3.5%** of South Australia's population

EMPLOYMENT

AREA

YEARS South

40

South Australia Australia

18.2% AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER

**1EDIAN AGES** 



**\$1,438** Australia



LION GRP

3.7% OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT (GSP)

(EconSearch Pty Ltd, RDAWEP Regional Economic Data

2015-16, RDAWEP and EPLGA, November 2017).

\$2.63 BILLION IN EXPORTS

53.7% FULL TIME 32.5% PART TIME

#### TOP 5 AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT

13.7%	Health and Community Services
11.2%	Retail Trade
1 <b>0.7</b> %	Manufacturing
<b>10%</b>	Agriculture
<b>10%</b>	Education and
	Training

MAIN EXPORTING INDUSTRIES:

**\$873.4 million** Agriculture

**\$495.1 million** Mining

**\$361.3 million** Manufacturing



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# 2. SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-18

### **2.1 REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

#### The regional priorities for RDAWEP in 2017-18 were:

- Support labour force participation and workforce development.
- Implement proactive strategies to enhance Aboriginal well-being, labour force participation, and economic development.
- Develop social and community infrastructure and services.
- Pursue opportunities to grow tertiary education facilities and expand course provision.
- Facilitate collaborative approaches for the development and delivery of health, aged care, child care and disability services.

- Promote investment to develop strategic infrastructure and foster globally sustainable and competitive business.
- Strengthen, foster and promote business diversity and productivity.
- Facilitate sustainable development of the visitor economy.
- Manage and develop water resources to provide abundant quality supply for community and economic use.

- Pursue solutions to provide a cost effective and secure power supply, and develop a low carbon economy.
- Facilitate the development of strategic mineral, oil and gas resources projects.
- Implement regional governance initiatives to achieve better and longer-term regional development outcomes.
- Pursue regional funding opportunities.

### **2.2 PRIORITY ACTIVITIES**

### RDAWEP initiated or substantially progressed activities in 2017-2018.

- The Upper Spencer Gulf was an area designated by the Australian Government for a Regional Jobs and Investment Programme (RJIP) to the value of \$19.7m. RDAWEP worked with industry, the steering committee and Rowan Ramsey MP, Member for Grey, to secure \$30m of new business investment into Whyalla. This included \$10.7m of RJIP funds and the creation of 190 new jobs across a diverse range of industries to further underpin RDAWEP's long term economic diversification plans for Whyalla and the region.
- The development and launch of the Far West Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, being the first Aboriginal Tourism Strategy for South Australia, which will energise and deliver improved infrastructure, create new experiences and put the Far West on touring maps like never before.



- The South Australian Government announced funding for what will be Australia's first renewablehydrogen electrolyser plant to be built near the end of the grid at Port Lincoln. The project is being described as a "globally significant demonstrator project" for the emerging hydrogen energy sector and will support two new solar farms and a local micro-grid, and will include "distributed ammonia" that can be used as an industrial fertiliser for farmers and aquaculture operators.
- Eyes on Eyre is a unique joint planning project that involves collaboration from Local, State and Federal Governments. The project is a mechanism for the Eyre Peninsula to move to the front of South Australia's visitor economy growth and respond to the South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy in a proactive and vibrant manner.

- The Minister for Regional Development, Fiona Nash, advised that funding for the Elliston to Wudinna Fibre Optic Radio Transmission System had been awarded. RDAWEP provided substantial assistance to the District Council of Elliston with the grant application. The project will deliver productivity benefits for business and government services, improve online tele-health and education services, and enhance tourism use of digital platforms.
- RDAWEP worked in partnership with the National Railway Museum to coordinate the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Trans Australian Railway (TAR) line construction. The celebration was held at a remote site on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain, near Ooldea, on Tuesday 17th October, 2017.
- As part of the State Government's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rollout, RDAWEP established itself as a NDIS hub to identify local workforce needs and opportunities, and coordinate programs, projects and services in partnership with local employers and businesses.
- RDAWEP continued collaboration with the District Council of Ceduna to advance development of the Thevenard Marine Offloading Facility. The construction of a purpose built facility adjacent to the Thevenard Slipway will facilitate the loading

and unloading of commercial fishing vessels as access to Thevenard Wharf is now infrequent due to the increased volume in bulk export vessels loading commodities from Thevenard. The project has been funded by the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund, Regions SA Regional Development Fund and the District Council of Ceduna.

- Through continued lobbying, research and sharing of energy information, RDAWEP has established itself as the lead agency for pursuing energy solutions across Eyre Peninsula. RDAWEP was consequently appointed for a 2 year term to the SA Power Networks Renewable Reference Group to provide valuable insights into the practicalities of connecting renewables into the grid.
- RDAWEP continued it's collaboration with GFG in managing the Whyalla Heavy Industry Cluster assisting to build capability, capacity, and diversity, and drive new business into the manufacturing sector throughout Whyalla.



### **ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT**

# 300,000km 3,500 hours

In 2017/18 RDAWEP staff traveled more than 300,000 km spending 3,500 hours (that's the equivalent of 80 weeks full time) on the road servicing our regional communities and industries.

**Career Development Centre – Whyalla** 130 participants > 34 Employment outcomes

**Port Lincoln/Eyre Program** 400 participants > 130 employment outcomes

Disability Workforce Hub

Workforce Builder



participants

Support and assistance was provided to >50 new business initiatives and to enhance and develop existing small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). 10

Support and assistance was provided to >10 Aboriginal organisations. The Far West Aboriginal Tourism Strategy target is to increase employment by 20 FTE (full-time equivalent) in two years.

Workshops held across the region



EP roadshow information sessions

18

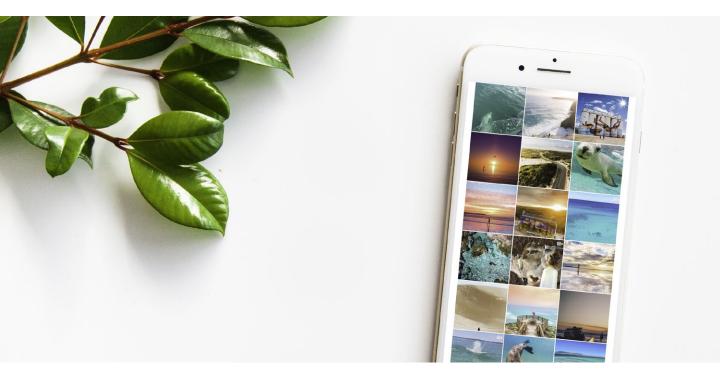
Employment outcomes



SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

15

### **COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA**



NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**10,039** 

EYRE PENINSULA @EYREPENINSULA Instagram audience grew by 105.80% **G**7,467

Facebook audience grew by 54.46%

**G** 687

RDAWEP Facebook audience grew by 56.13%



DISTRIBUTION

www.rdawep.org.au 73,349 page views

**107,700** page views

www.eyrepeninsula.com

www.seafoodfrontier.com.au 45,810 page views www.nullarbormap.com.au 293,483 page views

# 50,000

EYRE PENINSULA VISITOR GUIDES 2017/18 print and distribution throughout the world.



NULLARBOR MAPS 2017/18 print and distribution throughout Australia

# 3,500

RDAWEP'S REGIONAL E-NEWSLETTER 2017/18 monthly digital distribution to subscribers

# **3. CASE STUDIES**



### **3.1 CASE STUDY 1: HYDROGEN FROM SUN,** WIND AND WATER – RDAWEP TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



RDAWEP has attracted green hydrogen investment to firm up Eyre Peninsula's electricity supplies, produce green fertiliser locally for our farmers, green explosives for our miners and green hydrogen for our vehicles, while promoting Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula to the world as the location at the forefront for the hydrogen economy. Hydrogen from renewables is a direct replacement for fossil fuels and emits no greenhouse gases during production or use. Green hydrogen will transform the world's energy economy and significantly reduce greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. The green hydrogen will be made using electrolysis of water using electricity from excess sun and wind.

Adapting to climate change is, unfortunately, a growth area. One of RDAWEP's roles is to help business make money and grow, therefore tackling climate change while making a profit is a double benefit for business. The biggest returns on investment come from getting in early, predicating growth and establishing market dominance. RDAWEP has been promoting Eyre Peninsula's abundant wind and sun, wide open spaces, and export opportunities to complement existing premium exports of grain, minerals and seafood. With no coal and no gas, Eyre Peninsula has to look to renewables for reliable, sustainable energy. Attracting green hydrogen (green hydrogen is made from renewable energy such as wind, sun and water) investment to complement large scale PV solar farms means the PV Solar investment can be controlled and firmed by the green hydrogen demonstration plant with a hydrogen fuel cell and hydrogen powered thermal generator. Green hydrogen is readily converted to green ammonia, fertiliser and explosives used for mining.

RDAWEP has successfully encouraged investment in PV Solar farms across Eyre Peninsula and subsequently encouraged solar farm proponents to share media coverage in response to Eyre Peninsula one year after the black system event. Hydrogen investment in Port Lincoln was triggered after hydrogen investors saw RDAWEP on ABC news spruiking Eyre Peninsula as an attractive place to invest in green hydrogen. The focus of the Port Lincoln demonstration plant is not about the readily available technology, but the business model of putting it together. The green hydrogen export industry will eventually surpass the value of Australia's multi-billion-dollar gas exports - an estimated \$23 billion of LNG in 2016-17.

Port Lincoln will be the location of the first green hydrogen demonstration plant in the world. While the technology is readily available, it has never been used to demonstrate the business case to create:

- 1. green hydrogen
- 2. green ammonia/fertiliser
- 3. green explosives for mining
- 4. green hydrogen refuelling for forklifts, cars, trucks, buses and agricultural machinery
- 5. green ammonia supply chains for export into low carbon markets (Japan and Korea)

This is important as it demonstrates that reducing greenhouse gases can make money – not necessarily cost money.

The proposed new facility will provide balancing services to the national transmission grid, fast frequency response support to proposed solar plants under development (construction due 2019), and supply green ammonia and other chemicals to the local farming and aquaculture sectors. It will host the demonstration of novel supply chain technologies for the export of green hydrogen to markets in the Asia-Pacific region. The true potential of using renewable hydrogen to make ammonia is not found in selling small amounts of distributed green fertiliser, but in exporting vast quantities of the hydrogen dense chemical into low-carbon energy markets like Korea and Japan.

Climate change is one of the factors contributing to geopolitical instability – using local sun, wind and water to produce fertiliser, explosives and fuel will give South Australia greater independence and reduce reliance on imports.

This project has required partnerships across industry, and Local and State Government agencies.



The photo voltaic solar farms and hydrogen demonstration project attracted to Eyre Peninsula is a \$480 million-dollar investment with 500 jobs during construction and 50 jobs ongoing. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emission by using renewable energy and water to create not only energy, but fertiliser and explosives locally, substituting the shipping in of these same products currently made from natural gas and oil.

The project will result in cost savings and certainty of supply for farmers – which means more money in the economy. The reputation of South Australia has increased as is already evident from the Port Lincoln hydrogen stories across the globe. There are hundreds of stories published across the world talking about Port Lincoln, South Australia, green hydrogen and ammonia. This project has attracted international partners and has been reported in journals and newspapers across the globe.

Using the sun, wind and water to produce fertiliser, explosives and hydrogen fuel will give South Australia greater independence and reduce reliance on imports. The climate benefits of the green hydrogen demonstration plant include:

- Importing of fertiliser cargo vessels produce 3% of global carbon emissions.
- Green hydrogen/ammonia will be produced 97% of the world's existing hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels emitting carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
- The green hydrogen will be used to produce nitrogen fertiliser (for agriculture) and ammonia-based explosives used in mining.
- Green hydrogen (made with renewable energy and water) as a fuel can power agricultural machinery, commercial vehicles and cars to reduce fossil fuel use.

Green hydrogen is in demand across the world for public transport. The new facility will provide balancing services to the national transmission grid, fast frequency response support to new solar plants under development, and supply green ammonia and other chemicals to the local farming and aquaculture sectors.

This project will be the first of many to transform the globe to the 4th Energy Wave. Green hydrogen releases no greenhouse gas emissions and will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Where there is sun and wind, green hydrogen and associated green ammonia products will further enable distributed local energy production. Our reliance on importing fossil fuels will be reduced – we can make our own energy locally, store it, and make our own fertiliser and explosives. The aim of the demonstration plant will be to showcase the business case for green hydrogen and associated products. It can then be applied across Australia and the world reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This is the first step to exporting bulk green ammonia for conversion back to hydrogen in low carbon markets such as Japan, China and Korea. Prospective markets for Australian green hydrogen are China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore. Norway, Iceland, the USA, various Middle East or North African countries and Brunei are likely to compete with Australia to supply green hydrogen for export.

There are no operational emissions associated with the production of this hydrogen and ammonia. The global emissions reduction from replacing the use of 1 petajoule of diesel by 1 petajoule of hydrogen would be 69,337 tonnes of CO2.

### **3.2 CASE STUDY 2: CAREER SERVICES** AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS



RDAWEP is committed to connecting industry with a suitably skilled workforce to grow our regional economy. Career Services and Employment Programs have been delivered by RDAWEP in the Whyalla and Eyre region since 2011.

Career Services are an important tool in supporting the transition to employment pathways either from education, training, or a period of unemployment through access to free professional career counselling. They are a cost effective mechanism in regions to upskill local job seekers with the relevant skills and direct links to local employers and industry. These professional services are important in regions to profile how people can ably pursue a career through a technical qualification or a flexible apprenticeship pathway in connection with business.

Through the years 2011-2012 and 2015-2016, Eyre and Whyalla Career Services received \$979,717 in funding. This funding supported 1,777 participants and resulted in 608 (34%) employment outcomes. This equates to an effective cost of \$1,611 per employment outcome.

Employment Programs enable RDAs in regional areas of South Australia to deliver non-accredited training and support accredited training programs that meet the needs of industry and employment opportunities. Access to readily available training programs (particularly non-accredited) and choice of providers in regional areas is challenging as the demand is not constant therefore cannot sustain a permanent establishment of training providers and programs. Employment Programs remove this barrier and allow the delivery of tailored programs meeting industry and participants requirements.

Eligibility for the Employment Programs enable a number of providers to develop and deliver training programs. The development of applications for the program include the requirements to work with industry/employers to ensure that the training delivered has real job outcomes as a result.

As at June 2018, the Department for Industry and Skills (previously Department of State Development) has chosen not to continue funding for Career Services and Employment Programs, and to provide greater resources to the Skilling Australians Fund.

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES WHYALLA

The Career Development Centre is a regional centre for career information and career services for individuals, groups and businesses in the Whyalla region. The Centre offers a free, independent and confidential career planning service to assist people to develop the skills they need to manage their own careers and support an interest in lifelong learning.



#### CLIENT CASE STUDY

A client approached RDAWEP's Whyalla office in 2011, seeking support to obtain his driver's licence. The client attended a driver training program delivered by Allied Training, funded by the State Government and project managed by RDAWEP.

Since 2012, the client has attended further State Government funded training programs that have helped him obtain additional qualifications with the aim of securing employment and moving forward with his career. He was a part of the 2012 Heavy Industry Training program. The objective of the project was to provide 50 participants with accredited and nonaccredited training, which would prepare them for employment opportunities in the mining and heavy industry sector.

In 2016 RDAWEP assisted the client to access funding to obtain his Certificate III in Security Operations. This was achieved through the Individual Assistance Program that was funded by the Department for Industry and Skills (formerly Department of State Development). As a result the client was able to secure some casual employment with his new qualification.

Recently the client once again approached the Career Development Centre (CDC) for further assistance with a letter of application to gain entry into the Australian Defence Force, and for some financial assistance to procure a Heavy Rigid [HR] licence to use in his current job. The client works for the Metropolitan Fire Service on a part time basis. To secure more hours with the service, he needed the ability to drive the heavy vehicles, requiring a HR licence. RDAWEP assisted him with funding through the Department for Industry and Skills. By having a HR licence he will now be able to secure more hours and advance his career with the MFS.

In addition, the client has passed the first step to gain entry into the Australian Defence Force, and is currently waiting for confirmation of his interview date.

### As a show of gratitude to the CDC and RDAWEP the client sent an email:

#### Dear Staff of Career Development Services

I am sending you this email as a letter to you in recognition of your helpful service for me in helping me in Funding for undertaking a HR truck license Course required for the Metropolitan Fire Service that I shall be undertaking in the Future.

I am very thankful that you have helped me out, this is a big relief to me and that you guys were very quick in giving me this help, you guys have helped me a lot in the past and that i am also very thankful due to the fact that the help from this organisation is the result of me having my full driver's license to this very day by commencing the cert 2 in driving course back in 2011, so thankyou my gratitude is to you.

> Also I would like to thank Paula Wilson, Paula Wilson is a highly professional woman that is incredibly approachable, and has high compassion in helping people out, she has helped me with resumes and made them a sell point, in past and recently a cover letter gaining entry back in The Australian Defence, I will continue seeing Paula to help me succeed with future interview opportunities.

#### Thankyou

Yours sincerely, (name has been withheld)



### **3.3 CASE STUDY 3: EYRE PENINSULA** ABORIGINAL RANGERS PROGRAM



In October 2017, RDAWEP was contracted by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (now Department for Environment and Water) to develop a scoping study for the implementation of an Aboriginal Rangers Program for Eyre Peninsula. The Program is an exciting new initiative of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board (EPNRM) and endorsed with enthusiasm by Aboriginal organisations, Aboriginal communities, schools and students.

The program is intended to provide services to approximately 100 coastal conservation parks and national parks, and 14 Aboriginal community owned or controlled lands. Over the five year period it will engage with 204 Aboriginal rangers and/or Aboriginal high school students.

The social outcomes of the EP Rangers Program will be diverse, wide-ranging and interconnected, and can be categorised according to health and wellbeing, economic, cultural and educational outcomes for the individual rangers, their families and communities.

As real and culturally meaningful jobs in areas where employment is difficult to find, ranger jobs bring great benefits – not only to individual rangers, but also to their families and communities. A study of federally funded ranger programs shows that they are an employment success, with retention rates of 80% in the most successful programs.

Aboriginal ranger programs offer real jobs and opportunities for sustainable economic independence in remote areas where employment is often hard to source. The Ranger Program will combine traditional knowledge with conservation training to support local Aboriginal organisations to protect and manage their land, sea and culture into the future.

Research has found a link between participation in land and sea management activities and better health



outcomes in Aboriginal communities. Studies further show significant reductions in alcohol-related problems and welfare dependency in association with ranger programs, as well as improved levels of education and health.

But it is not just the individual rangers who benefit. There is less social unrest and substance abuse in communities, kids are more motivated at school because they see meaningful role models who offer hope and inspiration, and ranger programs provide an opportunity for the whole community to reconnect with their cultural heritage and priorities. Some communities have established junior ranger programs to encourage children and teenagers to spend time in the bush, connecting with older generations who can thus fulfil obligations to pass on knowledge and culture.

The economic case is just as compelling. An analysis commissioned by the Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet found that a \$35.2 million investment from government generated social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes valued at \$965 million. That is a 30:1 return on investment.



The cost of providing this service is approximately \$13 million for five years or \$2.6 million per year. Over the five years, with 204 Aboriginal persons participating in the program, this equates to \$64,000 per person not including the administration support that is provided.

The program will be delivered by four Eyre Peninsula based Aboriginal organisations and will provide services from Ceduna to the west, to Port Lincoln in the south, to Whyalla in the north and all in between. The servicing of conservation parks and national parks west of Ceduna will be provided by the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation.

The program is linked to the education system with the three major high schools in the region agreeing to introduce an Indigenous Ranger Cadet Program into the curriculum. The intention is to have 12 students per year per school take part in the program and obtain "ranger" related skills that are also transferrable to other vocations. The program will be jointly managed by EPNRM and the Aboriginal organisations. The work will be jointly planned with EPNRM being the funding proponent and reporting group.

Economic strategies that include the Far West Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, Coastal Access Strategy, Caravan and Camping Strategy, and the Eyes on Eyre (signage) project will all derive benefits from working cohesively with the Aboriginal Rangers Program. This will increase tourist visitor stays, and the introduction of new investment will improve the general economy of Eyre Peninsula and subsequently increase employment of Aboriginal persons.

These outcomes make important contributions to a range of high level plans and strategies such as Closing the Gap, the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, and the SA Strategic Plan, as well as supporting the aims of local Traditional Owners and Natural Resources Management organisations.

### **3.4 CASE STUDY 4: EYES ON EYRE –** A WAYFINDING, COASTAL ACCESS AND CAMPING OPTIONS PROJECT



The Eyre Peninsula is a culturally rich landscape with a dynamic geology that is largely untapped for visitor exploration and experiences. The region is vast, isolated and full of intrigue. The Eyre Peninsula, as locals deem it, has secrets both wonderful and dramatic. The energy that filters down from the desert to the inland mountain ranges, that unleashes at cliffs pounded by the Southern Ocean, will pass right through you and you'll be connected to the region long after you leave.

It is this connection that RDAWEP knows will see the region sustain its vibrant communities, industry and welcome visitors from all around the world to discover. A place to be and be inspired.

It is RDAWEP's goal to prime the region for these connections to occur and for its rugged and intact natural wonders to be protected to the highest of standards.

Eyes on Eyre is a unique joint planning project that involves collaboration from Local, State and Federal Governments. The project is a mechanism for the Eyre Peninsula to move to the front of South Australia's visitor economy growth and respond to the South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy in a proactive and vibrant manner.

Along with EPNRM, Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, and the Department for Environment and Water, and with funding received from Regions SA, RDAWEP undertook an 'Eyes on Eyre' stocktake for coastal access, camping options and wayfinding (signage) right across the region – from Whyalla to the SA/WA border and everywhere in between.

The stocktake revealed a region that had last seen significant open space and visitor economy infrastructure investment over 25 years ago. Interactions with our natural icons are ill-defined, confusing and anything but seamless and sustainable.

Camping sites are showing signs of degradation, the numbers of campers during peak times have outgrown capacity and surrounding environs are being impacted. The existing sites are mostly unconsolidated with limited infrastructure to offer management of waste, beach access and protection of native vegetation. Land tenure is also mixed and clarity of roles and responsibilities will assist with future investments.

Nature based tourism underpins the Eyre Peninsula's visitor economy. We know that the best way to engage people in the care and protection of the environment is to facilitate their sustainable access and interactions with it. This will build community stewardship which is more powerful than built protections. Eyes on Eyre is about finding where we need to do this on the Eyre Peninsula and how it could be master planned to deliver collectively on social, environmental and economic objectives.

A forum was held with Local Government, which included two information sessions and 30 minute oneon-ones. A road trip was undertaken to present interim findings to all eleven Local Governments and the Outback Communities Authority. The draft Wayfound Signage Audit Report and database was distributed to all participating Local Government partners and will enable them to target their budgets for the 2018-19 year for signage asset management.

RDAWEP hosted an Eyes on Eyre regional tour over five days to visit and preliminary assess eleven high priority sites. Eyes on Eyre principles and objectives were warmly received and the pathway forward acknowledged by participating representatives subject to the development assessment process.



The Eyes on Eyre Wayfinding, Coastal Access and Camping Options stocktake should be considered Stage 1 for developing an Eyre Peninsula Visitor Economy Master Plan.

The tour resulted in key agencies gaining a greater understanding of the project and specific site requirements which will assist in developing a masterplan. The current focus is on reinvigorating how Eyre Peninsula's drive market experiences the region from our gateways, to rest-stops, to informal campgrounds and access to coastal landforms.

#### **STAGE 1 - ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ANALYSIS**

The purpose of Stage 1 was to identify and analyse issues and opportunities in conjunction with stakeholders and the community.

### STAGE 2 - PROJECT VISION AND PLACE PRINCIPLES

The project vision, place principles and key directions will be developed in Stage 2. Stages 1 and 2 provide the foundation for the Master Plan moving forward.

#### **STAGE 3 - DRAFT CONCEPTS**

Draft concepts will be prepared to capture all the key moves proposed for the Eyre Peninsula. The concepts reposition the coast and inland areas and develop precincts in a high-level illustrative plan with specific and tangible outcomes.

#### **STAGE 4 - PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN**

The conclusions from Stage 3 are refined and developed into a preliminary master plan. Recommendations for how each township can be better connected and interfaced with the informal campgrounds, conservation and national parks and the draft site plans for the priority visitor sites are prepared.

#### **STAGE 5 - DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

Recommendations tested in Stage 4 will be further refined ahead of master plan exhibition and consultation through Local Government corporate planning and community engagement methods. A cost plan and implementation strategies are devised, with a view to submitting a Building Better Regions Fund application.

The project will require a Project Control Group and a Project Working Group comprising senior and executive officers from Local Government, RDAWEP, Department for Environment and Water, Regions SA and the South Australian Tourism Commission.



### **3.5 CASE STUDY 5: ELLISTON TO WUDINNA** FIBRE OPTIC RADIO TRANSMISSION SYSTEM



RDAWEP provided substantial assistance to the District Council of Elliston with a grant application and support documents for Round 1 of the Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), Infrastructure Stream. This included ongoing liaison with Telstra, the major project partner and funder, to get activity project management and budget details.

District Council of Elliston is a communications blackspot due to ageing and failing communications infrastructure at the limit of capacity. There is no signal coverage over much of the district. Slow and unreliable internet and mobile services are constraining community and business operations, and provide substandard access to government online services.

While many regional areas are embracing digitalbased economies and online service delivery, Elliston is unable to do so. Business sustainability is retarded by the lack of online services; such as ongoing loss of EFTPOS connectivity for long periods. There has been little or no SME growth in the district since 2009. Tourism opportunities are being lost, at the very time when most tourists – such as the fast growing caravan and camping sectors – do their bookings and itineraries online, and rely on Wi-Fi, internet and social media platforms for personal communications.

Telstra advised that the existing infrastructure could not be upgraded to increase capacity, and that the provision of NBN satellite-services would not provide a solution because of limited bandwidth and inability to deliver mobile and Wi-Fi services. A composite optic fibre and radio transmission system was identified as the most cost effective solution to meet current community and business needs, and would provide the capacity to cater for future growth.



Once the new infrastructure is installed, Telstra committed to upgrade mobile towers to 4GX to address mobile service blackspots. This upgrade is additional to the project scope and will be done at Telstra's cost.

The need for the \$3.6 million fibre radio transmission project was prioritised as urgent. The project was scheduled to commence in August 2017.

RDAWEP project support included:

- Project managing the grant application process.
- Strengthening the business case with value-added and additional data.
- Preparing the Project Management Plan, Risk Management Plan, Procurement Plan, Asset Maintenance and Management Plan, and Cost Benefit Analysis Summary.
- Preparing the wording of the grant application and merit criteria.



Importantly, RDAWEP resolved a problem which had previously made grant applications with Telstra partnership ineligible for government funding. Similar applications had been unsuccessful, based on the technicality that Telstra's contribution was an in-kind, and not a cash contribution. RDAWEP overcame this problem by arguing that Telstra payments to contractors (for time and use of plant) were a cash contribution and that Telstra staff and plant were in-kind. This resolved the grant program eligibility impasse, and the funding model has now been adopted by Telstra for future funding applications to government programs.

In August 2017, the Minister for Regional Development, Fiona Nash, advised that funding of \$1,341,500, the full grant amount sought, had been awarded for the project. This was a substantial achievement for District Council of Elliston, Telstra and RDAWEP because it was the only project funded in Eyre Peninsula from Round 1 of the BBRF.

The project will deliver productivity benefits for business and government services; improve online tele-health and education services; and enhance tourism use of digital platforms. The project will also enable Elliston Council to pursue strategies for economic development, employment and population growth.

The post construction cost-benefit forecast over 20 years estimated that the economic benefit from rates increases, visitor growth and business productivity improvements will be \$380,000 in year one, growing to about \$540,000 in year 20; producing a cumulative net benefit of \$8.56 million over 20 years. The predicted 2.5% growth in visitor numbers will increase visitor spend by \$60,000 in year one, growing to about \$100,000 in year 20. This will improve profitability for tourism-related businesses, create employment opportunities and provide incentive for infrastructure investment to meet consumer demand for higher quality services and facilities. Full return on the project capex will be achieved in ten years, when the cumulative net benefit reaches \$3.76 million. This forecast is formulated without consideration of potential growth in the mining, aged care, fishing and aquaculture industries, so the net benefit estimate is very conservative.

### **3.6 CASE STUDY 6: TRANS AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY CENTENARY**



Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) worked in partnership with the National Railway Museum, in Port Adelaide, to coordinate the celebration of the 100thanniversary of the Trans Australian Railway (TAR) line construction. The celebration was held at a remote site on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain, near Ooldea, on Tuesday 17th October 2017.

#### BACKGROUND

The TAR was completed on 17th October 1917 when the rail lines constructed simultaneously from Kalgoorlie in the west and Port Augusta in the east were linked at 1.45pm, at a site approximately 4kms west of Ooldea.

This was a momentous occasion in the history of Australia. The TAR provided nation-building infrastructure that not only linked the east and west coasts of Australia, but also provided a platform for successful negotiations to encourage Western Australia to join the Commonwealth of Australia and establish the Australian Federation. The railway line provided a supply chain to outback areas of Western Australia and South Australia; and was particularly important for developing the land west of Port Augusta.

The rail infrastructure brought development and economic opportunities that still benefit Australia today.

The TAR construction was an incredible achievement given circumstances at the time. Most of the work occurred during WW1 when communications, men, machinery and materials were scarce. The work was manually intensive using horses and camels, and the line was built across a remote, vast, dry and desolate environment. The project entailed complex and difficult management, operational and supply logistics.

#### **50TH ANNIVERSARY**

The importance of the TAR was recognised in 1967, when a 50th anniversary of the linking of the rails was celebrated on 17 October 1967 at the exact time and place where the rails were joined in 1917.

The 50th celebration attracted approximately 120 people. The official party travelled to the site by a special train. The event included the unveiling of two identical commemorative monuments, designed and built by the Commonwealth Railways, which were

placed north and south of the rail line. The structure of the monuments was largely comprised of timber, which was not sufficiently robust to withstand the environmental conditions. The monuments gradually deteriorated and had collapsed by the early 2000s.

The primary objective of the TAR centenary event was to replace the monuments. Numerous replacement options were investigated after the National Railway Museum Executive Officer, Bob Sampson, released a discussion paper about this need in July 2015.

Subsequent negotiations between the National Railway Museum and the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) – the owner and operator of the TAR – were fruitful. ARTC constructed replicas of the 1967 monuments in steel from the original plans, which were unveiled at the centenary celebration.

#### RDAWEP PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

RDAWEP became aware of the pending centenary in September 2016, and supported the National Railway Museum to coordinate the event.

RDAWEP appreciates the importance of the infrastructure investment made by early settlers and previous generations and helped coordinate the event to ensure that the community and economic benefits resulting from the TAR infrastructure legacy would be appropriately acknowledged.



The coordination was a shared responsibility. The National Railway Museum provided historical information and managed the official guest list and invitations. RDAWEP prepared publicity articles, and managed the budget, attendee registration database, and the project communications.

The RDAWEP Board agreed to under-write the event with up to \$10,000 to ensure that it would proceed. RDAWEP also contracted Leon Ashton, the former manager of Maralinga Village, to undertake the on-site event coordination and management of logistics.

#### **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

The 100th anniversary was publicised in key articles in the rail industry Track and Signal Magazine, RM Williams Outback Magazine, and the RDAWEP Regional Newsletter. Various 4WD websites, such as Westprint, also supported the project and publicised the event to members.

Even though the celebration was going to be held in a very remote location, approximately 370kms northwest of Ceduna, there was an overwhelming response from people to attend the celebration.

The main interest came from railway history enthusiasts, seasoned outback travellers (grey nomads) and 4WD clubs. People from South Australia, Victoria,

New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and the ACT registered to attend; including eight 4WD clubs from Melbourne, Horsham, Kyneton, Sydney, Gosford and Perth.

In the week prior to the centenary - i.e. early October - 400 people and over 190 vehicles were registered on the event database. Most of the attendees were towing off-road caravans and camper trailers and intended to camp on site.

#### EVENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

The influx of such a large number of people to a remote location created logistical challenges. At the beginning of the project, the likely participation was unknown, but it soon became apparent that the numbers would exceed expectations. Arrangements were consequently made to enhance visitor amenity and safety. This included: strategies to provide portable toilets, power, PA systems, water and firewood; and communications and meetings with numerous groups to resolve logistical issues, including:

• Maralinga Tjarutja – access to the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands, accommodation at Maralinga Village, use of inland road maps, and Aboriginal participation in the event,



This plaque was unveiled on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 'joining of the rails' and the completion of the **Trans Australian Railway** 

- National Railway Museum
- Australian Rail Track Corporation Regional Development Australia
- Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary



- ARTC monument installation, and safety and people movement in the vicinity of the railway line,
- SA Police and Iluka Resources vehicle safety on the Jacinth Ambrosia mine road,
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) – grading the dirt road to Ooldea,
- Ceduna CFS fire and safety services,
- SA Ambulance first aid station and provision of paramedics,
- Pacific National provision of a train at the event site,
- Fowlers Bay Progression Association provision of food via a sausage sizzle to raise funds for township development,
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources land access and camping,
- District Councils of Ceduna and the Flinders Ranges

   supply of bollards and witches hats to designate site areas,
- Several parties options to use and improve the surface of the Ooldea Airstrip, and
- Numerous individuals volunteer services to support the event.

These negotiations were conducted by the Event Coordinator, Leon Ashton on behalf of the National Railway Museum and RDAWEP.

#### SPONSORSHIP AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

The provision of services and infrastructure magnified the project costs. The project was able to proceed due a sponsorship of \$10,000 from Dick Smith Foods, \$1,000 from the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary, and under-writing by RDAWEP. No government funding was sought or offered for the event; and the provision of donations, reduced rates for services, and volunteering were critical.

#### **CENTENARY EVENT**

The TAR Centenary was held on 17 October and approximately 400 people attended. The ceremony was emceed by Bob Sampson from the National Railway Museum, and included talks by Sharon Yendall and Mima Smart (Maralinga Tjarutja), Dion Dorward (RDAWEP), Tim Ryan (Executive General Manager of ARTC), and Dick Smith, the major event sponsor. A statement from the Minister for Infrastructure, Darren Chester, was read out during the ceremony by Dion Dorward.

SA Musician, Mike Roberts, sang his song– Bands of Steel – about the railway line and launched his CD of the same name at the ceremony.

The program was timed so that Tim Ryan and Dick Smith unveiled a plaque on the southern monument at 1.45pm, the exact time that the railway lines were linked on 17 October 1917. The monuments and plaque will leave a lasting legacy of the TAR and the organisations involved in coordinating the 100th anniversary.

The event attracted news items on the Channel 9 News on Sunday 8 October, and Channel 7 Newson Saturday 21 October.

There was a flurry of requests for follow-up articles about the event, with information and photographs provided to the West Coast Sentinel, Port Lincoln Times, Eyre Peninsula Tribune, and Track and Signal Magazine, with additional information provided for the RDAWEP Regional Newsletter and community newsletters at Streaky Bay and Quorn.



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Image Credit : State Library of SA

# 4. SHORTCOMINGS AND PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED 2017-18

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### ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF PROFESSIONALS TO THE REGION

Attraction and recruitment of skilled professionals and their families to Eyre Peninsula can be challenging. Some of the issues include: less diverse activities or lifestyle; limited professional development; level of education available to children; geographical location and; a perceived lack of infrastructure and services.

These issues can also be transferred to general workforce attraction. Further impediments include: seasonal employment and limited opportunities for skills and career development.

While the region is experiencing population decline, it is essential that Eyre Peninsula is promoted as a desirable place to live and work, and that facilities and amenities are retained and developed.

#### **BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES**

The lack of access to affordable business support services is slowing down private sector growth and subsequently, employment opportunities. Many small and medium enterprises exhibit a lack of skills in business planning and capacity building.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

The District Council of Franklin Harbour did not contribute financially for this financial year. New agreements with Local Government will be negotiated during the 2018-19 year.

#### COMPETITIVE FUNDING UNCONDUCIVE TO STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional economic development of strategic infrastructure for export pathways takes an inordinate amount of time and resources to secure.

Funding for these infrastructure should be more accessible through mainstream planned and budgeted government programs rather than reliance on ad-hoc competitive grant programs.

The region's global competitiveness will continue to decline unless this constraint is seriously addressed, and soon.

#### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The economic development of Eyre Peninsula is constrained by inconsistent or lack of access to mobile phone and internet services in many parts of the region.

The dangers of having no phone signal in an emergency and the detriment to growing regional businesses causes major frustration.

## 5. LESSONS AND CHALLENGES FOR 2018-19

### **5.1 SUPPORT FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The ability to provide support to organisations seeking funding from government grant programs remains a major issue. Grant program conditions are becoming increasingly more onerous, and applicants are required to invest substantially more amounts of effort and funding to be 'grant-ready'.

The increasing need for quantified, evidence-based planning to prove project merit has heightened the requirement for more detailed and robust business cases. The need to demonstrate project implementation capability necessitates the preparation of project management plans, procurement plans, risk management plans, and asset management plans among other documents. The need for evidencebased capex costings depends on substantial investment in detailed design and engineering specifications, and independently verified cost estimates.

The time and investment now required to become grant-ready is very much favouring large organisations and Local Government Councils over smaller operators, because they can afford to pay private sector consultants to prepare the grant application support documents. This is arguably counterproductive for the development of regional areas, which are largely comprised of small Councils and community-based organisations which cannot afford these document costs. RDAWEP is receiving substantially more requests to assist with grant applications and business cases, and is unable to meet the demand due to limited staff resources. Assistance with grant applications is consequently being contracted out on a user-pays basis to organisations that can afford to have the documents prepared by the private sector.

In 2017-18, RDAWEP provided substantial free assistance to Councils including the preparation of grant applications, business cases, project management plans and other documents. Based on this experience, RDAWEP has concerns about the conditions that apply to small projects seeking funding from the BBRF Grants.

The increasing documentation requirements are also imposing a burden on RDAs. The challenge for 2018-19 will be to assess projects on a case-by-case basis, and put priority on providing RDAWEP grant application support to projects that have the potential to bring more effective community and economic benefits to the development of the region.

# **6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA - WHYALLA & EYRE PENINSULA INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018

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### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

### FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Your committee submit the financial statements of the Regional Development Australia - Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

#### **Committee Members**

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Chairperson:	Bryan Trigg		
Public Officer:	Dion Dorward		
Treasurer:	Diedre Turvey (Retired 30/6/20	018)	
Committee:	Malcom Catt (Deputy Chair) Jack Velthuizen Allan Suter Matthew Waller Clare McLaughlin Colin Carter	Kate McShane Matthew Enbom Heather Baldock	

In accordance with Section 35 (5) of the Associations Incorporations Act 1985, the committee hereby states that during the financial year ended 30 June 2018:

- the committee members are paid a sitting fee from non Commonwealth funding for the meetings they attend to cover their time and any minor outgoings incurred.

Apart from the above:

a) no officer of the Association

no firm of which an officer is a member, and

no body corporate in which an officer has a substantial financial interest,

has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, firm or corporate body and the Association.

b) No officer of the Association has received directly or indirectly from the Association any payment or other pecuniary value.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to:

- Provide assistance via various external funding activities to the community, industry and business, and Government agencies in the following broad areas:
  - Economic Development
  - Indigenous Economic Development
  - Tourism Development
  - Food Industry Development
  - Employment and Training Programmes
  - Business Development programmes
  - Career Development services
- Note that the complete range of actual programmes is published in our annual plan and can be made available on request

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

## FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

## **Operating Result**

	30/06/2018	30/06/2017
	\$	\$
The deficit from ordinary activities amounted to:	(23,584)	(124,046)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee

Bufen higg Chairman Dated this 26th day of September 2018

<u>Malbatt</u> Deputy Chairman Dated this <u>25 il</u> day of <u>Schlenk</u> 2018

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue	2	2,578,336.00	2,636,705.00
Expenses Employee expenses		(1,418,323.00)	(1,437,187.00)
Depreciation expense		(19,444.00)	(17,471.00)
Advertising and promotion expense		(28,812.00)	(36,790.00)
Rental expense		(72,653.00)	(79,205.00)
Project funding expenses		(540,959.00)	(672,778.00)
Sundry expenses		(521,729.00)	(517,320.01)
Current year deficit		(23,584.00)	(124,046.01)
Income tax expense			
Net current year deficit		(23,584.00)	(124,046.01)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

#### **AS AT 30 JUNE 2018** 2018 2017 Note \$ \$ ASSETS CURRENT ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents 4 2,270,651.00 2,424,945 Accounts receivable and other debtors 5 221,814.00 545,010 TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 2,492,465.00 2,969,955 NON-CURRENT ASSETS Property, plant and equipment 6 89,742.00 70,568 TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS 89,742.00 70,568 TOTAL ASSETS 2,582,207.00 3,040,523 LIABILITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES Accounts payable and other payables 7 277,616.07 221,063 Employee benefits 8 242,008.00 186,638 **Unexpended Grants** 410,142.00 924,668 TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES 929,766.07 1,332,369 NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES Employee benefits 9 26,593.00 58,722 26,593.00 58,722 TOTAL LIABILITIES 956,359.07 1,391,091 NET ASSETS 1,625,847.93 1,649,432 EQUITY Reserves 10 1,685,997.00 1,685,997 Retained surplus / (deficit) (60, 149.00)(36, 565)TOTAL EQUITY 1,625,848.00 1,649,432

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Retained Surplus / (Deficit) \$	General Reserves \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	37,481	1,735,997	1,773,478
Net deficit for the year Transfer to reserves Transfer from reserves	(124,046) - 50,000	- - (50,000)	(124,046) - -
Balance at 30 June 2017	(36,565)	1,685,997	1,649,432
Net deficit for the year Transfer to reserves Transfer from reserves	(23,584) - -		(23,584) - -
Balance at 30 June 2018	(60,149)	1,685,997	1,625,848

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Grants operating received Project funding Other receipts Payments to suppliers and employees Interest received		997,882 1,861,712 1,333 (2,990,997) 40,605	1,458,966 1,053,456 3,368 (2,568,584) 47,627
Net cash used in operating activities		(89,465)	(5,167)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		(69,829) 5,000	(2,727)
Net cash used in investing activities		(64,829)	(2,727)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities			-
Net decrease in cash held		(154,294)	(7,894)
Cash on hand at beginning of financial year		2,424,945	2,432,839
Cash on hand at end of financial year	4	2,270,651	2,424,945

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

#### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act SA. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of noncurrent assets. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

#### (a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Property, Plant & Equipment is carried at cost, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association from the time the asset is held ready for use.

#### (b) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the entity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognized in the income and expenditure statement.

## (c) Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

A provision for long service leave is recognised once an employee's period of service has reached 5 years and meets the requirements of a provision. At 5 years, 100% of the expected provision is recognised.

### (d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### (e) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

### (f) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discount and volume rebates allowed.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

#### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

## (f) Revenue and Other Income (continued)

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

#### (g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

### (h) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

## (i) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

## (j) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations not yet mandatory or early adopted

Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet mandatory, have not been early adopted by RDA-WEP for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2018. RDA-WEP has not yet assessed the impact of these new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations.

		2018	2017
<u>.</u>		\$	\$
Note 2:	Revenue and Other Income		
	Administration grants	997,882	1,458,966
	Project funding	1,538,516	1,126,744
	Interest received	40,605	47,627
	Other income	1,333	3,368
		2,578,336	2,636,705
Note 3:	Auditors' Fees		
	Remuneration of the auditor of the association for:		
	Auditing the financial report	8,150	7,950
	Auditing project grant acquittal reports	6,555	8,570
	Other corporate services	463	82
		15,168	16,602

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

		2018 \$	2017 \$
2020 14 1021			
Note 4:	Cash and Cash Equivalents	400	400
	Cash in hand		
	Bendigo Admin Account	423,184	573,179
	RDA WEP - Employ & Skills Admin	2,856	9,703
	RDA WEP Whyalla Reserve	167,430	217,430
	RDA WEP Eyre Reserve	400,497	350,497
	Bendigo Eyre Reserve Term Deposit	805,000	805,000
	Bendigo Whyalla Reserve Term Deposit	300,000	300,000
	Bendigo Eyre Reserve 11am	65,902	64,922
	Bendigo Whyalla Reserve 11am	105,382	103,814
		2,270,651	2,424,945
Note 5:	Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors	040 450	E10 E07
	Project debtors	213,158	513,507
	Other debtors	8,656	31,503
		221,814	545,010
Note 6:	Property, Plant and Equipment		
	Plant & Equipment - at Cost	42,873	42,873
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	(40,760)	(40,232)
		2,113	2,641
	Office Equipment - at Cost	150,161	147,932
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	(134,630)	(133,738)
		15,531	14,194
	Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	62,268	62,268
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	(58,881)	(58,034)
		3,387	4,234
	Project Assets - at Cost		52,812
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(31,180)
		-	21,632
	Motor Vehicle - at Cost	124,883	87,281
		(56,172)	(59,414)
	Less Accumulated Depreciation		
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	68,711	27,867

### Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial period are set out below:

	Carrying Amount at 30 June 2017	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation Expense	Carrying Amount at 30 June 2018
Plant & Equipment	2,641	-	-	(528)	2,113
Office Equipment	14,194	2,228	-	(891)	15,531
Furniture & Fittings	4,234	-	-	(847)	3,387
Project Assets	21,632	-	(21,632)	-	-
Motor Vehicle	27,867	67,601	(9,579)	(17,178)	68,711
	70,568	69,829	(31,211)	(19,444)	89,742

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

		2018	2017
		\$	\$
Note 7:	Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
	Sundry and other creditors	173,805	114,312
	Credit card control account	7,763	5,181
	GST payable	34,754	54,796
	Payroll liabilities	61,294	46,774
		277,616	221,063
Note 8:	Employee Provisions - Current		
	Annual leave entitlements	169,075	132,254
	Long service leave entitlements	72,933	54,384
		242,008	186,638
Note 9:	Employee Provisions - Non-Current		
11010 0.	Long service leave entitlements	26,593	58,722
		26,593	58,722
			00,722
Note 10:	General Reserves		
	Eyre reserve project allocation	1,123,183	1,123,183
	Whyalla reserve project allocation	562,814	562,814
		1,685,997	1,685,997
Note 11.	Operating Lease Commitments Being for rent of office and motor vehicles:		
	Payable - minimum lease payments:		
	-not later than 12 months	85,563	113,403
	-between 12 months and five years	-	7,137
		85,563	120,540
Note 12	Contingent lighilities		
Note 12.	Contingent liabilities		

RDA-WEP have bank guarantees in place to cover payroll processing with their external provider. These were in place for 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2017.

Apart from above, RDA-WEP had no other contingent liabilities.

## Note 13. Events after the reporting period No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2018 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the RDA-WEP's operations, the results of those operations, or RDA-WEP's state of affairs in future financial years.

### Note 14. Economic Dependence

The ongoing operations of RDA-WEP is dependent on receiving operational funding from the local, state and federal governments.

In addition to the current projects that are funded to promote economic development in the region, RDA-WEP continue to run a number of unfunded programs using their own operational funding. Without the the support of the government, the special projects may not be viable to continue.

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## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA - WHYALLA & EYRE PENINSULA**

# STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements as set out on pages 3 to 12:

- 1 Presents fairly the financial position of Regional Development Australia Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Regional Development Australia Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

	Begent	rige	,	
Chairman		10	11/	
Dated this	26th	day of	September	2018.
Deputy Chái	l Cett rman			
Dated this	2511	day of	Septente	2018.



#### **RSM** Australia Pty Ltd

Equinox Building 4, Level 2, 70 Kent Street, Deakin ACT 2600 GPO Box 200, Canberra ACT 2601

> T +61(0)262170300 F +61(0)262170401

> > www.rsm.com.au

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF

## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA – WHYALLA & EYRE PENINSULA INCORPORATED**

## Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Regional Development Australia – Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit and loss, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Regional Development Australia – Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Incorporated as at 30 June 2018, and its performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of Regional Development Australia – Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Incorporated in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Regional Development Australia – Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <u>http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf</u>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**R** Miller

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory Dated: 27 September 2018



#### **RSM** Australia Pty Ltd

Equinox Building 4, Level 2, 70 Kent Street, Deakin ACT 2600 GPO Box 200, Canberra ACT 2601

> T +61(0) 2 6217 0300 F +61(0) 2 6217 0401

> > www.rsm.com.au

### AUDITOR'S DISCLAIMER

## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA – WHYALLA & EYRE PENINSULA INCORPORATED**

The additional financial data presented in the following pages is in accordance with the books and records of the Association which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2018. It will be appreciated that our audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person, (other than to the Regional Development Australia – Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula Incorporated) in respect of such data, including any errors or omissions therein however caused.

R Miller

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory Dated: 27 September 2018

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# DETAILED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
Note	\$	\$
	40,605	47,627
-	40,605	47,627
	997,882	1,458,966
	1,538,516	1,126,744
	1,333	1,718
	-	1,650
	2,537,731	2,589,078
	2,578,336	2,636,705
	Note	Note \$ 40,605 40,605 997,882 1,538,516 1,333 - 2,537,731

# DETAILED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising & Promotion	28,812.00	36,790.00
Audit & Accounting Fees	15,168.00	16,601.00
Bad Debts	6,286.00	-
Bank Charges & Taxes	794.00	755.00
Board Meeting Expenses	60,115.00	54,250.00
Cleaning and Repairs	14,684.00	16,692.00
Computer Expenses	36,155.00	33,273.00
Consultants Fees	540,959.00	492,639.00
Depreciation	19,444.00	17,471.00
Electricity & Gas	12,233.00	14,580.01
Fringe Benefits Tax	29,648.00	31,500.00
Insurance	1,697.00	3,880.00
Legal Costs	-	500.00
Motor Vehicle	95,317.00	104,466.00
Photocopier Expenses	9,329.00	27,096.00
Postage	2,976.00	2,399.00
Project Expenses	-	180,139.00
Printing & Stationery	9,888.00	10,525.00
Publications	2,980.00	1,981.00
Rates & Taxes	7,553.00	11,381.00
Rent	72,653.00	79,205.00
Security	975.00	702.00
Seminars	12,474.00	7,607.00
Staff Amenities	3,390.00	2,234.00
Subscriptions	9,273.00	9,725.00
Sundry Expenses	4,994.00	3,576.00
Telephone	57,878.00	59,280.00
Travel & Accommodation	96,663.00	104,317.00
Payroll	1,253,300.00	1,244,978.00
Payroll Overheads	165,023.00	192,209.00
Asset Expenses	31,259.00	-
	2,601,920.00	2,760,751.01
Net current year deficit	(23,584.00)	(124,046.01)

# DETAILED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Net current year deficit	(23,584)	(124,046)
RETAINED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	(36,565)	37,481
NET TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES	<u> </u>	50,000
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	(60,150)	(36,565)
RETAINED DEFICIT AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	(60,150)	(36,565)











89 Liverpool Street | Port Lincoln SA 5606 Telephone (08) 8682 6588 | Fax (08) 8682 5081 Email reception@rdawep.org.au | **www.rdawep.org.au**