

## Quarterly Report to Region July to September 2018



### EYRE PENINSULA **Workforce Builder**

The Department of Industry and Skills (DIS, formerly DSD) has requested that the Eyre and Whyalla Industry Leaders Groups (ILG) and Skills and Employment Networks administered by RDAWEP continue for 3 months and are formally 'wound up' by the end of October.

RDAWEP has been aware for some time that the new liberal government has a new focus in the area of skills development especially in light of the anticipated skills shortages facing our state.

The State Government in partnership with the Commonwealth is placing considerable attention to increasing the numbers of apprenticeships and traineeships taken up over the next four years and has released the following statement:

"The South Australian Government is committed to ensuring that apprenticeships are attractive to job seekers, businesses and industry, and continue to have a fundamental role in meeting the state's skills development needs into the future.

To achieve this goal, the Government is investing \$100 million, with a further \$103 million provided by the Australian Government through the Skilling Australians Fund National Partnership Agreement, to create an additional 20,800 apprenticeships in South Australia over the next four years. This is additional to the Government's existing investment of more than \$1bn in training and skills over the same period.

Skilling South Australia is the range of activities that will implement the National Partnership in South Australia".

With this in mind, RDAWEP is currently positioning itself to work with the State Government to achieve these targets.

### **On behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board (EPNRM), RDAWEP has completed a scoping study for an Eyre Peninsula Aboriginal Rangers program.**

The program is aimed at improving employment opportunities for Aboriginal people to work in the environmental management sector whilst also benefitting local schools, international and domestic tourism, and bolstering local labour hire services.

Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula Aboriginal Partnerships Team Leader David Farlam said there is cultural knowledge specific to Eyre Peninsula which could be applied and shared and provides a different way to look at caring for country, from an Aboriginal perspective.

"This study has been prepared in partnership with Aboriginal groups and with input from local organisations and schools. It shows great forward thinking and I believe it will result in realising long held ambitions that Aboriginal people have had to be actively involved in land management for the long-term here on Eyre Peninsula. I see a strong demand for Aboriginal Ranger employment from community, and a growing desire from others to learn and become connected to this ancient land we all live on through one of the oldest continuously connected cultures on the planet," David said.





**The Opportunity Network was officially launched on the 21st August 2018 at the Whyalla RDA office, with over 45 business leaders in attendance.**

It marks a new era in supporting local businesses to secure work with major new projects in the region.

Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula are continuing to see an influx of major projects, including the estimated \$350 million SIMEC ZEN Energy Cultana Solar Farm project, which in itself is estimated to include 780,000 solar panels and enough electricity generation to power 96,000 homes.

Unfortunately, in the past, many small and medium local businesses have missed out on major new contracts and work opportunities due to a lack of both awareness and understanding of how to go about securing the business.

RDAWEP, [Whyalla City Council](#) and [Whyalla Chamber of Commerce](#) collaborated to establish a new way to 'support local' and create new jobs for the region and hence the Opportunity Network and associated Capability Directory was established and launched.

Sturt Daley, project manager for the SIMEC ZEN Energy project, presented at the launch providing details of the project to a room full of business owners on how to go about securing the work.

Feedback was exceptional, with local business owners grateful for the support to access these major opportunities.

Ongoing bi-monthly events are planned to bring the network back together to strengthen business relationships, collaboration, and also present new major contract opportunities to the local business owners.

**For further information contact Sandy Jones in the RDAWEP Whyalla office on 08 8645 7811.**

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**The Federal Minister for Regional Services, the Hon Bridget McKenzie invited local government to submit new nominations to the National Mobile Black Spot Database.**

As RDAWEP had just completed a telecommunications survey and follow-up blackspot survey, the information collected was timely and was used to update the national database.

The survey identified the need for a follow up in-depth mobile phone blackspot survey. 70 respondents provided location details which were then mapped using Google maps. Subsequently data collected from across all of South Australia by RDA's were mapped by RDAWEP.

The Database will be used by Mobile Network Operators when developing funding proposals for Round 4 of the Commonwealth Mobile Black Spot Program.



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**16 participants from Port Lincoln and Whyalla have finalised the 10 week training portion of the program for individuals starting businesses to become sole providers.**



All participants successfully completed the training and will now commence the 12 month mentorship program. 5 participants in Port Lincoln and 1 in Whyalla have begun the registration and audit process to become sole providers.

The Disability Hub connects with service providers across the region who maintain regular contact and who have further business with RDAWEP by way of assistance with recruitment and skills training of employees and potential employees.

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