

## Quarterly Report to Region October to December 2018

### **Big things are coming for Whyalla and the Eyre Peninsula!**

In December, several noteworthy investments were announced that will have a significant benefit to our region.

On Monday 10 December, Liberty Primary Steel announced the signing of contracts worth more than \$600 million, which is a significant step towards the transformation of Whyalla's iconic steel operations. Part of Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance, Liberty Primary Steel has signed two contracts for the design of equipment and construction with partners Danieli and CISDI Engineering Co. The contracts for a new state-of-the-art rail and structural heavy section mill and for a Pulverised Coal Injection (PCI) Plant will play a key role in securing Whyalla's future.

Whyalla City Council also announced a \$45 million investment into a new hotel on the Whyalla foreshore (Pelligra Constructions), as well as a \$145 million horticulture development (Beijing Enterprises Clean Energy) and a \$6 million recycling business (Peats Soil & Garden Supplies).

The Whyalla investments come on the back of the recent announcement of an orbital launch complex at Whalers Way near Port Lincoln, which will be bolstered by the selection of Adelaide as the home of Australia's new space agency.

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula CEO Dion Dorward said the Eyre Peninsula has had a productive year for new investments to diversify the economy.

"The South Australian government announced funding earlier this year for Australia's first renewable-hydrogen electrolyser plant near Port Lincoln.

Also announced was the purchase of land at Sleaford Bay for the construction of an \$80 million desalination plant, with construction likely to begin in the next 18-24 months.

"We have worked very hard, collaboratively, to ensure many new opportunities to diversify our regional economy transpire," Mr Dorward said.

This significant level of investment in the Eyre Peninsula throughout 2018 demonstrates industry and Government are recognising the region's potential.

These investments are expected to provide a substantial boost to the local economy and to provide new jobs across different industries.





### **RDAWEP a finalist for tackling climate change!**

Climate leaders in South Australia were celebrated at the 2018 SA Climate Leaders Award event hosted by the Premier's Climate Change Council on 31 October 2018.

RDAWEP were recognised for attracting and promoting investment that demonstrates that zero carbon industries can make money, not cost money.

The SA Climate Leaders Awards recognise the achievements of individuals and organisations who take action to address climate change in South Australia.

**Congratulations to the winners and finalists!**

### **The Telstra Elliston Mobile Base Station which will bring reliable landline and 4G coverage to the town was launched on 4 October.**

The upgrade to the overloaded radio link between Elliston and Warramboob is great news for Elliston residents who can now receive high speed telecommunications services.

RDAWEP provided substantial assistance to the District Council of Elliston with a grant application and support documents for the Australian Government's 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 has been a communications blackspot due to ageing and failing communications infrastructure at the limit of capacity. While many regional areas are embracing digital-based economies and online service delivery, Elliston has been unable to do so. Business sustainability has been 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 were being lost as most tourists do their bookings and itineraries online and rely on Wi-Fi, internet and social media platforms for personal communications.



### **ElectraNet has released a final report on its investigation of electricity supply options to ensure Eyre Peninsula has a safe, reliable and secure electricity supply into the future.**

The recommended option involves the construction of a new double-circuit 132 kV transmission line from Cultana to Port Lincoln via Yadnarie by the end of 2021, with the ability to upgrade the Cultana to Yadnarie section to 275 kV at a later date.

The option will have a negligible cost impact on customer bills that is estimated to be around ten cents per annum.

ElectraNet Chief Executive Steve Masters said the final option meets the immediate supply needs of Eyre Peninsula and will future proof the network to cater for increased capacity for new mining developments and renewable energy projects.

The recommended option is outlined in ElectraNet's Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR), which has been published as the final step in the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T).

If approved by the regulator, the project is expected to cost approximately \$240 million and be completed by the end of 2021. Expenditure of \$80m to reconduct the existing line has already been approved by the regulator as part of ElectraNet's current revenue determination.

## Fresh Salty Eyre Chef Tour 2018

On Sunday the 28th of October some of the country's best chefs travelled to the Eyre Peninsula to experience firsthand the produce we have to offer.

In collaboration with Olsson's Salt RDAWEP helped ensure our guests had a well-rounded two day tour, showcasing regional producers and their products.

This tour was a great opportunity for local producers, as it allowed these big-name chefs to not only taste their products but also to understand exactly where they come from and hopefully become inspired to use more Eyre Peninsula produce on their menus. We would like to say a massive thank you to Olsson's Salt and all of the local producers who came on board to spread the word about the Eyre Peninsula's spectacular produce and help our guests have an amazing experience.

[www.facebook.com/RDAWhyallaEP/](http://www.facebook.com/RDAWhyallaEP/)



## On Saturday October 27 RDAWEP hosted our Ability Awareness Festival, a community event to raise awareness of the Disability Workforce Hub and the Disability Service providers across the region.

The event included fantastic live music performances featuring both local artists from within the region and interstate special musical guests, as well as food and beverage stalls and fun free activities for all. Service providers took the opportunity to promote themselves and the services they offer.



Featured artists who entertained the crowd on the day included Taylor Henderson, Adrian Eagle, Finger Bun, Sam Brittain and Brie Ryan.

The objective of the event was to raise a broader awareness of the NDIS and the many service providers we have in the region as well as familiarising the public with those businesses. This goal was definitely achieved!

**Many thanks to all those who supported this unique event!**

## RDAWEP has been managing the passenger service from Ceduna to Yalata for the past five years.

The service has operated regularly 3 times per week and during that period has transported 3,780 persons to Yalata. RDAWEP engaged Dave Clarke as the passenger bus operator, whose cultural knowledge, ability to speak and understand Anangu language and understanding of the needs of Anangu people has been a major contributing factor to the success of the service.

The Anangu people have expressed their thanks to both RDAWEP and Dave Clarke for providing the service. Many thanks to Greg and Sonya Limbert for their assistance in the initial start-up of the program, more recently On The Run Services, the Day Centre, Housing SA, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Yalata Community, the relief drivers that provided assistance, and many others that contributed to the success of the program. The program will continue following the seamless changeover to new operators.



Contact us: [reception@rdawep.org.au](mailto:reception@rdawep.org.au) | ph 08 8682 6588 | [www.rdawep.org.au](http://www.rdawep.org.au)



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