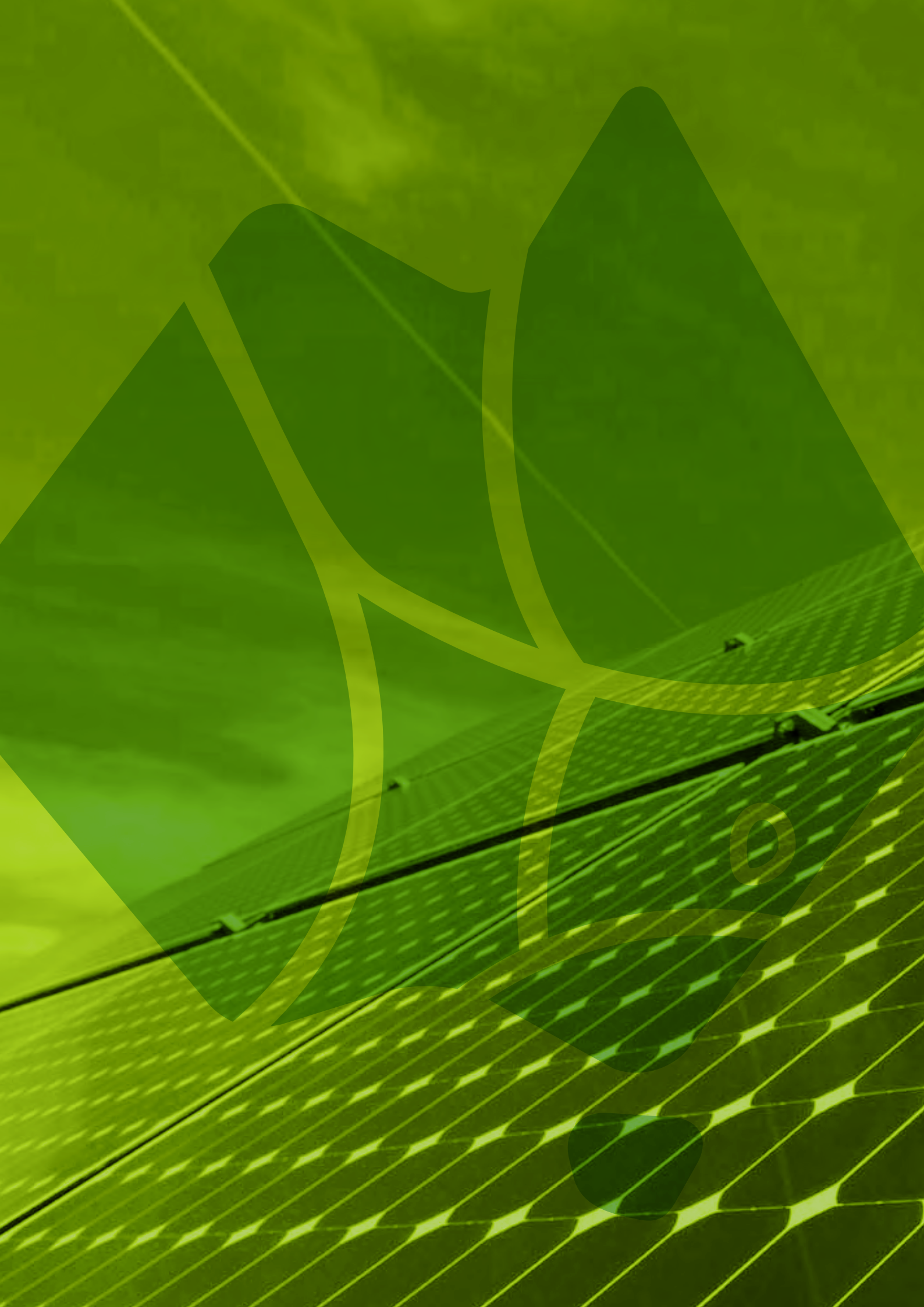




Regional  
Development  
*Australia*  
F A R N O R T H

ANNUAL REPORT 21/22





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# 1. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Throughout the 2021/22 financial year, RDA Far North worked closely with key stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities across the region. Together we developed strategies to improve the region's growth and future sustainability. These strategies were focused on:

- Private investment
- Tourism
- Collaboration
- Population
- Connectivity
- Transport and Access
- Tertiary Education
- Decentralisation

RDA Far North has continued to promote the region's positive attributes to increase investor confidence in the region. These attributes include ideal conditions for renewable energy production, innovative horticultural and agricultural production, high-speed broadband in the region's Southern parts, a thriving service sector, and nature-based tourism opportunities.

The small business sector is a vital component in our region's diverse economy. Improving this sector's ability to 'do business' is critical to supporting growth in this area, however there are still some challenges facing the recovery of the region; our tourism sector was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, the agricultural industry, hit hard by drought, is now into recovery and workforce and housing shortages have and will continue to be a serious problem for the Far North SA region.

Throughout the year, RDA Far North promoted various government and non-government funding opportunities and assisted local organisations to apply. The RDA team engaged with businesses early to ensure they were grant ready when new funding opportunities were released, often with short deadlines.

Attracting, maintaining, and retraining a skilled workforce is vital to the realisation of potential opportunities. RDA Far North has been involved in a number of workforce initiatives, including providing in-kind support to Port Augusta Uni Hub and being a member of the Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce and Skills Working Group. We also released the Live, Work, and Play campaign, and collaborated with RDA Yorke and Mid North to address housing recommendations from the Regional Development SA Workforce Summary report.

**The pipeline of large investment projects across the region totals \$12 billion, creating 15,703 employment opportunities in construction and 3,344 ongoing jobs. In comparison, our Annual Report for 2020/21 reported an investment pipeline of \$6.5 billion with 4,250 jobs in construction and 460 ongoing jobs.**

As positive as the investment pipeline is, the construction workforce has added an additional 45% to our regional population. This, in turn, has put additional pressures on accommodation, services, retail, and hospitality industries. It has also resulted in a drop in rental availability in Port Augusta, the region's largest population centre, from an average of sixty rental properties in 2020 to an average of just fifteen last year. The lack of rentals makes it increasingly difficult to draw in new people because there simply aren't enough homes available.

As we put the negative impacts of the pandemic behind us, new challenges are likely to present around cost of living, workforce shortages and a rapidly evolving local regional economy; be assured RDA Far North will be at the table as these issues present and are discussed. RDA Far North is a valuable project partner as the region continues to capitalise on evolving opportunities.

**Mark Sutton**  
**Chair**

## 2. RDA FAR NORTH'S ROLE

### OUR PURPOSE





OUR REGION



### 3. OUR COMMITTEE & OPERATIONAL TEAM

RDA Far North is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a committee of regional people. Our committee members are appointed for their industry knowledge and understanding of the Far North SA region.

#### COMMITTEE

Name	Position	Term Expiry Date
Mr Mark Sutton	Chair	31/12/2025
Mr Colin Davies	Deputy Chair	30/09/2022
Mr Craig Cresp	Committee Member	30/09/2022
Mr Mark Fennell	Committee Member	30/09/2022
Mr Sam Johnson	Committee Member	30/09/2022
Ms Lucy Morphet	Committee Member	30/09/2024
Mr Scott McKay	Committee Member	30/09/2024
Mr Kerry Mudge	Committee Member	30/09/2023
Mr Dave Petersen	Committee Member	30/09/2022
Mr Trevor Wright	Committee Member	30/09/2023
Cr Linley Shine	Committee Member (Local Government)	30/09/2023
Mayor Greg Flint	Committee Member (Local Government)	30/09/2023

#### OPERATIONAL TEAM

Name	Position
Ms Claire Wiseman	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Greg Williams	Business Development Manager
Mr Jeremy Carn	Economic Development Manager - Tourism
Ms Suzanne Noll	Economic Development Manager - Workforce
Mr Hamilton Heading	Economic Development Manager - Communications
Ms Renata Hackett	Leadership Program Manager
Ms Shari Dodd	Office Manager
Ms Melita Miller	Administrative Officer

## 4. OUR STAKEHOLDERS & THIRD PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

### OUR STAKEHOLDERS

RDA Far North has core funding agreements with:

- Commonwealth of Australia, as represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC)
- State Government, through the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)
- Five Local Government Areas:



**District Council of Coober Pedy**

District Council of Coober Pedy (DCCP)



**The Flinders Ranges Council**

The Flinders Ranges Council (FRC)



**Port Augusta**

CITY COUNCIL

Corporation of the City of Port Augusta (PACC)



Municipal Council of Roxby Downs (RDC)



**Outback Communities Authority**

Outback Communities Authority (OCA)

### CONTRACTS

The following outlines the various contracts and funding agreements that RDA Far North had for core and position funding for the 2021/22 financial year:

#### Commonwealth Government

Core funding for administrative positions and operational purposes

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

- \$233,590

#### Local Government

Core funding for administrative positions and operational purposes

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

- \$155,340

#### State Government

Far North Economic Growth and Investment

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2022

- \$439,000

#### Tourism Service Delivery

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

- \$79,127

#### Regional Workforce Coordination Initiative

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

- \$135,000

#### Regional Leadership Program

15 February 2021 – 30 June 2022

- \$52,500

The significant third-party contracts are with the State Government and Local Government partners; without this funding, RDA Far North would not be as operational as it is, given the area to be covered and the workforce required. If these funds were not available, there would be a severe lack of service to this vast region.



## 5. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

RDA Far North continues to build and maintain investor confidence in the region by promoting its positive attributes, including the ongoing potential as a site for green energy production, innovative horticultural and agricultural production, and thriving service, tourism, and retail sectors.



**\$12 billion**

in investment pipeline,  
creating **15,703**  
employment opportunities  
during construction  
and **3,344** ongoing



over **102** regional  
business provided  
specialist business  
advisory services  
with **4** consultations  
facilitated and  
over **60** attendees



**41** proponents  
assisted with  
funding applications  
to the value of  
over **\$2.75m**



over **143**  
meetings held  
with regional  
stakeholders



**\$36.2 million**

in expansion projects in  
small business,  
creating **180** new  
ongoing employment  
opportunities



over **127** regional  
small business  
connected with  
Government  
support programs



**6** industry  
consultation sessions  
ensuring direct  
input from  
regional industry



Active member  
of **10** working  
groups focused  
on specific  
challenges and  
opportunities  
across the region

## 6. COVID-19 – TWO YEARS ON

Businesses in the Far North SA region, like the majority of SA, were severely affected by COVID-19. Many businesses were forced to close their doors or drastically reduce their activities. The tourism industry, especially, was severely impacted. However, the industry enjoyed a successful “off peak” summer season with significantly more visitors than previous summers.

One of the biggest challenges for organisations has been to continue delivering products and services while they grapple with staff shortages

arising when one of their team tests positive for COVID. Small businesses in the trades, where personnel must attend a workplace to perform their jobs (e.g. mechanics, builders, carpenters, and electricians) have been particularly impacted by these challenges.

The following is a summary of the overall impact comparing pre-COVID data to March 2022 data.



The greatest increase in employment has been in Mining (+64 jobs, 1.5% up from pre-COVID figures) followed by Public Administration and Safety Services (+37 jobs, 2.8% up from pre-COVID figures). Health Care & Social Assistance had an increase of 25 jobs (1.7% increase compared to pre-COVID numbers), Retail was up 37 jobs (2% increase), and Construction up by 12 jobs (1% increase).

Whilst overall the employment numbers have increased, some industry sectors remain below pre-COVID levels. Accommodation and Food Services is the most significant industry affected with 47 less jobs (down 4.6% compared to pre-COVID numbers).

# 7. PROGRESS TOWARDS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN 2021/22

## 7.1 PRIVATE INVESTMENT

During 2021/22, RDA Far North directly supported private investment by local and regional businesses, and the attraction of new industries and businesses addressing market gaps.

RDA Far North's work towards increasing private investment included:

- Facilitating meetings with key stakeholders and consultation groups
- Providing linkages to government and local supply chains
- Marketing opportunities for investment via RDA Far North's communication channels (where appropriate)
- Assisting regional proponents in sourcing and preparing applications for projects and initiatives
- Maintaining an investment pipeline database
- Assisting nine major investors/potential investors and a further two new opportunities
- Working closely with major project developers to assist in navigating through the compliance and reporting systems of the three levels of Government

### Business Advisory Services

RDA Far North provided general business advisory services to 341 SMEs across the Far North region covering a range of topics:

- General business health
- Growth opportunities
- New business partnerships
- Improvement feasibility studies
- Grant and funding opportunities
- Advice on insurance assessment
- Strategic planning
- Business planning
- Recruitment, retention, and training
- Marketing and branding
- Business data
- Collaboration
- Accounting and financial planning
- Compliance and access
- Consultant engagement
- Project impacts
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Licence requirements
- Business diversification
- COVID-19 business recovery

The Business Development Manager has also continued to distribute relevant business information and opportunities to relevant clients. This has included:

- Funding opportunities to relevant clients
- Labour market information
- ATO small business newsroom information updates
- business.gov.au relevant newsletter information
- Information about the Adelaide Business Hub business building workshop program
- Austrade export fundamentals information from the Trade Advisor
- NBN Co announcement information
- Fair Work factsheets

### COVID Support Information

COVID Support Package information was distributed to local businesses on the RDA Far North database. It was also added to the RDA Far North website so local businesses could easily download information and seek assistance.

### Support to Chamber of Commerce Organisations

RDA Far North again provided support to Chamber of Commerce organisations and business groups across Far North SA. We acknowledge that these associations are driven by volunteers who all have priorities within their own businesses, which must take their most immediate attention. RDA Far North regularly communicates with these groups to provide support.

Significant assistance was provided to the following organisations during 2021/22:

### Business Port Augusta

RDA Far North continued to engage with Business Port Augusta during the year. Our Business Development Manager regularly attends meetings, provides updates on all relevant opportunities and available services, and assists with specific projects where necessary (for example facilitating the marketing for the planned Christmas Extravaganza launch event).

This involvement is valuable to us so the RDA team can hear about the needs, priorities, and issues being experienced by local businesses.



#### **Quorn Business Group**

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager continued to assist the Quorn Business Group throughout the year. This included attending meetings and following up on agreed actions. Assistance was provided to source barista training course information and costs during the year to assist local hospitality businesses. Feedback and suggestions for improvement were also provided to the Quorn Business Group for their proposed new website.

#### **Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association**

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager and Tourism Development Manager have continued to assist the Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association throughout the year. This included regularly attending meetings, helping to follow up on issues important to the association, and providing resources and support as required.

#### **Roxby Downs Business Forum**

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager has continued to be an active member of this group. We participated in workshop and training planning discussions. Assistance was also provided with a business consultation exercise to assist in planning future events which met the needs of businesses.

#### **Leigh Creek Progress Association (LCPA)**

RDA Far North have been active in assisting the Progress Association in planning its future operations. This included assistance with planning and development of a bid for the Association to acquire the Leigh Creek Recreation Centre as their preferred site. A five-year strategy was developed as part of this proposal and forwarded to the Minister and task force.

Assistance was also provided for the Aroona Dam pontoon project. This project aims to achieve all-weather access to the pontoon at Aroona Dam.

RDA Far North looks forward to continuing these strong relationships with business groups across the region and offering networking and other opportunities for members in the future.

#### **Other Assistance to Local Organisations**

RDA Far North's team have worked closely with several Progress Associations and other regional groups on various projects across the Far North.

#### **Station Stays**

RDA Far North's Business Development manager attended the Station Stays planning meeting to discuss business planning, strategic planning, and funding opportunities. He also attended committee meetings and assisted with connections to SA Tourism Commission and Department for Infrastructure and Transport to fix signage issues.

#### **Hydrogen Opportunities**

RDA Far North organised a keynote presentation for stakeholders by Nick Smith, Executive Director, Growth and Low Carbon Division from the Department for Energy and Mining. This presentation provided further understanding about hydrogen hubs. It also provided insight into potential opportunities given the significant renewable energy projects across the Far North region. RDA Far North focused on the possibilities for how our team can best work with projects to assist the region to capitalise on hydrogen opportunities.

#### **Proposed Cement Batching Plant**

RDA Far North met with Hallett Group about their proposed cement batching plant to be located in Port Augusta. This innovative business will use waste product from the Port Augusta Power Station site, Nyrstar, and Whyalla.

#### **Contractor Event in Port Augusta**

RDA Far North worked with industry advocate representatives to assist with the coordination and promotion of an event for contractors held in Port Augusta. The event provided valuable information about the opportunities coming up in the demolition of infrastructure in Leigh Creek.

#### **Human Resources (HR) Workshops**

HR workshops were held in seven locations across the region during the year, including Port Augusta, Quorn, Hawker, Yunta, Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs, and Leigh Creek. The purpose of these workshops was to assist in building the capacity of local businesses to attract and retain staff. RDA Far North's Business Development Manager has also followed up with all participants to encourage them to take advantage of the two free hours of mentoring available.

#### **Launch Your Own Business Workshops**

RDA Far North submitted a funding application to run two Launch Your Own Business Workshops to be delivered in Port Augusta and Roxby Downs. Announcements are expected in mid 2022.

#### **Instagram Workshop Promotion**

RDA Far North assisted in the promotion of an Instagram workshop aimed at improving skills for local businesses. Workshop was received with enthusiasm from local businesses with great uptake and positive responses from participants.

#### **Capability Statements – Assistance to Local Businesses**

RDA Far North provided templates and guidance to interested businesses who need to provide capability statements for work packages for the Cultana expansion. Capability statements were also collated from local suppliers and submitted to Aurecon.

#### **NIAA Indigenous Business Incubator**

RDA Far North continued to assist with the NIAA-funded Indigenous Business Incubator Program, being facilitated by Complete Personnel. RDA Far North assisted the Manager of the Indigenous Business Incubator and clients, looking at funding and possible start-ups suitability.

#### **BHP Local Buying Foundation**

RDA Far North continued to participate in the BHP Local Buying Foundation Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to review and recommend project applications from local businesses that help build business communities.

#### **Promotion of TAFE Courses**

RDA Far North liaised with TAFE to promote the newly launched Pathway to Cookery training course available in Port Augusta. This course is aimed at people looking to move into a hospitality role and commenced in April 2022.

#### **Roxby Downs Community Club Assistance**

RDA Far North provided assistance to the Roxby Downs community to research issues associated with the closure of the Roxby Downs Community Club. This included examining future licence transfers and other potential challenges.

#### **Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf**

RDA Far North provided finance, administrative and executive office support services to Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf, which is a supply chain support network.

#### **Leigh Creek Economic Forum**

RDA Far North facilitated the annual Economic Forum in Leigh Creek in July 2021. The Leigh Creek Economic Forum had been rescheduled twice due to COVID-19 restrictions. More than 25 people attended and positive feedback was received about the event.

#### **Promotion of Adelaide Business Hub Opportunities**

RDA Far North continued to promote the Adelaide Business Hub Program. The team also discussed future workshops, including Cyber Security for business.

#### **Small Business Forum**

RDA Far North held a Small Business Forum on 7 December 2021. The event was a two-course dinner and networking event with guest speakers, including:

- Adelaide Business Hub
- NBN Co
- RDA Far North
- Digital Marketing keynote speaker

32 businesses participated in the event and feedback was very positive.

#### **Port Augusta Business Centre Assistance**

RDA Far North managed all aspects of the recruitment process for a Business Support Officer for the Port Augusta Business Centre. This position will also provide support to the executive team of Business Port Augusta. RDA Far North provides "in-kind" support to the business centre managing a reception and support to tenants where required.

#### **Export Enquiries**

RDA Far North worked closely with the Austrade Advisory to respond to export enquiries throughout the year.

### Funding Assistance

The RDA Far North team continued to work with businesses to identify relevant funding opportunities. Our organisation monitored all available funding opportunities and various grants were promoted during 2021/22, including:

- AusIndustry Entrepreneurs Program
- PIRSA Great Outdoors Fund for tourism
- NIAA – Indigenous Tourism Business funding
- FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities
- Other FRRR programs
- Recreation and Sport Partnership Funding stream
- Active Club Program
- Recycling Modernisation Fund (supporting waste infrastructure in regional and remote Australia)
- Grants SA Minor Round
- Local Buying Foundation opportunities
- Building Better Regions Round 6 Community Investment Stream and Infrastructure Investment Stream
- PIRSA Regional Growth Fund
- Multicultural Grants Program
- Drought Communities Program
- Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand
- Hydrogen Hub Grants
- Heritage Tourism Grants
- Regional Arts Fund
- Regional Jobs Support and Incentive Program
- Future Drought Fund Resilient Soils and Landscapes Program
- AusIndustry Supply Chain Resilience Initiative Round 2
- Tourism Industry Development Fund
- Building Stronger Communities grant
- SA History Fund

RDA Far North regularly monitors Grant Connect and provides grant information to businesses right across the region.

### Assistance with Grant Applications

RDA Far North assisted with over 41 grant applications during 2021/22. Support varied from providing letters of support to assisting with information gathering, seeking other letters of support and/or quotes, developing project plans and briefs, developing budgets and risk management plans, compiling, and even writing applications.

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager responded to many enquiries during the financial year about small business funding in Port Augusta. Local businesses were connected with DIS Small Business Unit.

RDA Far North maintains a list of projects that are awaiting grant opportunities. This continues to be monitored and projects are matched with available grants where possible.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Total value of current investment pipeline is **\$12 billion** with **15,703 jobs** created in construction and **3,344 ongoing jobs**.

This includes private investment, community projects, cultural projects, infrastructure projects, minerals and resources projects and renewable projects.

Assistance provided to **41** grant funding proponents:

Total successful grants = **\$2.75m**

### SUCCESSFUL GRANTS INCLUDED:

**\$939,595**

4 x REGIONAL  
AIRPORTS PROGRAM  
\$939,595 in  
grant funding

**\$1,783,886**

10 x TOURISM INDUSTRY  
DEVELOPMENT FUND  
\$1,783,886 in  
grant funding

**\$5,000**

1 x SA HISTORY  
GRANT  
\$5,000 in  
grant funding

**\$20,000**

1 x BUILDING BETTER  
REGIONS FUND  
\$20,000 in  
grant funding

**\$10,000**

1 x STRENGTHENING  
REGIONAL  
COMMUNITIES  
\$10,000 in  
grant funding

## 7.2 TOURISM

### Local Contact Officer Funding

RDA Far North continued to deliver Local Contact Officer services across the region as per our agreement with the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC). This included:

- Ensuring regional tourism operators were kept fully informed of opportunities and developments in tourism. This included distribution of information about grants, strategies, reports, and marketing campaigns from SATC, Tourism Australia and other State and Federal Government agencies.
- Maintaining regular communication with regional operators through regular newsletters, email blasts, websites, and segments of operator forums.
- Contributing to the maintenance of the SATC and RTO key stakeholder databases.
- Promoting industry sign-ups for the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse, especially in categories linked to the key touring routes.
- Information sharing from industry-related agencies including SATC, Tourism Industry Council of South Australia (TiCSA), Ecotourism Australia, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), NRM, Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), Outback Communities Authority (OCA), SSSA, Business SA, local tourism industries and LGAs.
- Relationship building with industry committees, progress associations and business groups, including the NIAA Incubator Program, Aussie Travel Code, FRTOA, CPRBTA, VIC/VIO, SSSA and World Heritage.
- Several meetings with tourism operators, businesses, and community groups, including visits to Quorn, Coober Pedy, Leigh Creek, Oodnadatta, Andamooka, and Woomera.

As in previous years, RDA Far North provided a proportion of this Local Contact Officer funding to RDA Yorke and Mid North to cover the Southern Flinders area of the tourism region.

### Rainfall and Flooding

Early 2022 brought significant rain and flooding to the region. For the most part, the impact was positive, although flooding did create many challenges for our communities and businesses alike.

RDA Far North contacted businesses affected across the region to ascertain the impact of the floods and subsequent road damage. We also surveyed local businesses in our database after the floods to better understand the non-direct impacts on business outside of the major rainfall and flood-affected areas. Responses to the survey were compiled and provided to key stakeholders in government to inform them of the assistance regional businesses need.

### Indigenous Businesses

RDA Far North assisted Indigenous tourism businesses to be grant ready for tourism funding applications. Assistance was also provided to an Indigenous regional music/events company with business planning.

### Assistance to SA Tourism Commission

RDA Far North assisted the SATC and Vogue in the development of an itinerary in the region. Aroona, Akurra walk, Copley Bakery and the Blackrock display were all captured in family images.

Assistance was also provided to acquire and deliver Mortal Combat displays to Coober Pedy.

### SA Film Corporation

RDA Far North was involved in SA Film Corporation's Film Friendly Councils' Group.

### Tourism Industry Council of South Australia (TiCSA)

RDA Far North assisted with the organisation of a TiCSA regional roadshow with State government representatives.

### Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) Board Support

FRO Board meetings continued throughout the year and RDA Far North continued to provide support. Our Tourism Development Manager along with being an active non-voting member of FRO assisted with a number of projects, with some highlights being assisted with an award nomination for the Banksia Sustainability Awards for the 'Communications for Impact' category. Assistance was also provided with the coordination of the FRO annual planning day and AGM. Assisting with the marketing and roll out of the Aussie Travel Code and managing FRO social media content, industry newsletters and the production of the regional visitors guide.

### Great State Vouchers

The RDA team promoted the latest round of the SA Government's Great State Vouchers. This included providing information and links to encourage local tourism operators to participate.

## Promotion of Regional Tourism Assets

### Social Media Promotion

RDA Far North promoted tourism assets right across the region via content on Flinders Ranges and Outback social media pages.

### Flinders Ranges and Outback Visitor Guide

RDA staff assisted to update the Flinders Ranges and Outback Visitor Guide. This annual update ensures the most current information is available to tourists and visitors when travelling to the region.

### Media

The RDA Far North team assisted with several media and public relations request throughout the year. This included a meeting with Adelady to promote the region.

Information on attractions and accommodation in the Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism region were provided to various media outlets.

### Promotion of the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW)

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager continued to promote the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW), which is a valuable free marketing tool for regional tourism businesses. Assistance and support was provided to tourism operators to register where necessary. The Tourism Development Manager also built two ATDW listings for promotion on southaustralia.com - Aroona Dam and Akurra Trail.

### Aussie Travel Code

RDA Far North continued to work with Flinders Ranges and Outback (FRO) and Tourism Australia on the national roll-out of the Aussie Travel Code. This has included ongoing promotion of the initiative.

### Assistance to Pichi Richi Railway

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager met with the Pichi Richi Railway and SATC Marketing assisting with planning for signage in Port Augusta.

### Tasting Australia

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager worked with Tasting Australia regarding possible Flinders Ranges and Outback region events.

### Digital Ordering Tools Research

Research commenced into potential digital ordering tools to assist businesses in The Flinders Ranges Council area to cope with labour shortages. Digital trade show information was distributed to hospitality businesses in the area.

### Assistance to Leigh Creek Historical Society

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager assisted the Leigh Creek Old Town Project during the year. As a result, Port Augusta Power Station items have been loaned to the Leigh Creek Historical Society. This will be a great tourism attraction showcasing coal mine and power station history.

### Way-finding Signage

RDA Far North assisted with a project to install brown and white way-finding signage in priority locations within The Flinders Ranges Council area and District Council of Coober Pedy. Our Tourism Development Manager was the contact point liaising between SATC, the signage construction and installation business team and operators. This project is now complete.

### Flinders Ranges World Heritage Bid

RDA Far North continues to play a key role on this committee. RDA staff also participated in the site visits which occurred in November 2021.

### Destination Australia

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager virtually attended Destination Australia, a tourism conference, in March 2022. The information gained from this event was shared with local tourism businesses where relevant to help keep local operators up to date with new innovations and trends in the industry.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Number of days for visitors stays increased by 8.3% percent.
- The Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism season is between March – October and has continued to be affected by COVID with the virus essentially shutting down the tourism industry for a proportion on the year, and then ad hoc as the State moves through lockdowns to manage outbreaks of the virus. In this light, the industry impact has seen its number drop to below previous years and has still not recovered to what it was prior to COVID, that said, it is only down a small percent.
- 61 businesses assisted to manage COVID impacts, ranging from understanding changes in restrictions, marketing opportunities, review offering to increase nature-based experiences, human resource management, recruiting and retaining.
- Seventeen businesses provided advisory services with start-up and expansions projects totalling \$20,082,766 creating 205 jobs in construction and 84 ongoing jobs.



## 7.3 COLLABORATION

### Local Government

RDA Far North continued to hold regular meetings with all local government CEOs or their representatives. This included attending and presenting at Council meetings when appropriate.

RDA Far North hosted dinner events with its Committee Members, Council Mayors, and CEOs. Keynote guest speakers were arranged to talk about relevant topics such as SA's electric vehicle transition, COVID impacts and economic recovery, and the Northern Water Pipeline Project update.

### State Government

RDA Far North participated in regular meetings with State Ministers. Prior to the State Government election, RDA Far North's Chair and CEO, along with the RDA Yorke and Mid North Chair and CEO, met bi-monthly with the region's former Member for Stuart. The purpose of these meetings was to provide a briefing on the recovery strategies that the two respective RDAs have developed and to raise any opportunities or concerns. RDA Far North is looking forward to continuing these meetings with both the Member for Giles and the new Member for Stuart.

### Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) network

RDA Far North worked closely with the Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) network throughout the financial year. Key collaboration projects across the RDAs include:

- The preparation of regional development briefing notes for the new State Government
- The roll out of the Regional Workforce Coordination Initiative project, including some policy development around the long-term workforce challenges across the region.
- A review of RDA database systems to ascertain value of shared data systems
- RDSA website update
- Regional Leadership Project
- The organisation of the RDSA Annual Forum, which will have a leadership theme

RDSA also released a second edition of the RDSA Regional Blueprint in late 2022.

### Growing Our Regional Workforce Review

RDSA released the Growing our Regional Workforce Review Summary Document which lists the top five priorities to alleviate barriers for employers and employees. Each priority area, listed below, has two RDA CEOs allocated to drive the priority:

1. Housing Supply
2. Create Employment Readiness pathways
3. Regional based workforce resources
4. Increase business HR capacity and capability
5. Reform Migration

### Housing Supply

RDA Far North and RDA Yorke and Mid North are working on initiatives focused on priority one of the Growing Our Regional Workforce Review – Housing Supply. Both RDA organisations worked together with the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) during the year to develop a supply and demand project brief. A funding application was submitted to the National Priority Fund 2021-2025, which is part of the Commonwealths Local Jobs Program. The initial expression of interest was successful, and the full tender application was submitted in March 2022. Assessment of the application is still pending.

If funded, RAI will be engaged to undertake a housing supply and demand audit for all of regional SA. The audit will focus on identifying the need for greater housing supply, including the types of the housing needed in the regions, the cost trade-off of housing renewal, financial constraints for buyers, builders and developers, and the policy levers available for local, state, and federal government.

The key outputs of the audit will be:

- A survey of each local government area
- Case studies for each type of region
- Three regional stakeholder network workshops
- Housing Study Report including agreed solutions and next steps

### Accommodation Gaps

RDA Far North facilitated an online briefing titled "Resolving the dire accommodation gap in regional South Australia". The purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview of work being undertaken and challenges in the Far North region.

The stakeholder invitee list included key agencies, businesses and industry bodies involved in the housing industry, all regional SA Mayors, and RDA CEO's and Chairs. Sixty-five people attended the event. The briefing was chaired by Rob Kerin, with presentations from Kelly-Anne Saffin (RDA Yorke & Mid North CEO), Claire Wiseman (RDA Far North CEO), and Kim Houghton (Regional Australia Institute).

### Housing Affordability

RDA Far North wrote a submission on behalf of RDSA to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue Inquiry on the contribution of tax and regulation on housing affordability and supply in Australia.

### Housing Policy Toolkit

RDA Far North assisted the SAROC-engaged consultant who completed the RDSA Housing Policy Toolkit project for Local Government. The project aimed to address the severe housing supply shortages across regional South Australia, while also working towards long-term economic and community sustainability and growth.

### Regional Workforce Coordination Initiative (RWCI)

#### Place Based Project

RDA Far North continues to work on a place based project as part of the Regional Workforce Coordination Initiative (RWCI). This project aimed to support businesses to operate at their peak with a clear understanding of their employee attraction campaigns, employment conditions benchmarked above industry standards, best proactive HR systems and policies, and increased employee retainment levels.

Key deliverables for this project included:

- Delivery of a targeted program to build the capacity of businesses focused on best practice techniques for employee attraction and retention
- Delivery of four three-hour workshops held in Port Augusta, Quorn, Hawker, and Roxby Downs (32 people attended representing 24 businesses).
- A total of 13 hours of one-on-one mentoring for workshop participants
- Development of a toolkit resource for employers
- Identification of job seeker expectations to inform employer resources

### Understanding Regional Workforce Issues

Another key performance indicator for the Regional Workforce Coordination Initiative (RWCI) was to quantify regional workforce demand. In doing this, RDA Far North built an understanding of regional and seasonal workforce needs backed by evidence.

RDA Far North worked collaboratively with other SA RDAs to identify and implement relevant tools and systems to consistently identify, record and promote job vacancies by sector and region. This included engagement with:

- job seekers (with statistics collected about whether they were local or new to the region)
- local labour hire firms
- businesses, to understand job vacancies and barriers to employment

RDA Far North participated in fortnightly meetings with other SA Regional Workforce Coordinators and regularly shared information with Government and regional stakeholders. 4,204 job vacancies were recorded and promoted through social media channels and direct engagement. The team engaged with 124 jobseekers (27 local, 99 new to the region), with three labour hire firms and 71 businesses.

### Regional Workforce & Incentive Programs

RDA Far North engaged with 68 job seekers registered through the Regional Work SA website. The Workforce Development Manager worked closely with businesses to understand their needs and utilised the PIRSA portal to identify possible employees who were looking to relocate to the Far North. Once potential employees were identified, they were paired with employers and meet and greets were organised. The RDA Far North team also provided updated content to RDA Adelaide Metro for the Regional Work SA website.

### Commonwealth Government - Monthly Teleconferences

RDA Far North participated in monthly teleconferences with Minister Nola Marino with a focus on providing regional intelligence about what is happening in the Far North region and how it is moving through the recovery phase. The meetings were all summarised in a bulletin which goes to all Commonwealth Ministers and Department Heads. Positive feedback has been received about these bulletins and they are considered a valuable source of information.

### **Industry and Government Briefings**

RDA Far North has continued to provide briefings to industry and all levels of government on the challenges and opportunities within Far North SA. We provided regional intelligence on how businesses are coping, the main areas of concern, as well as opportunities. During the year our team responded to several requests for briefings from Ministers, including the new Minister for Regional Roads.

RDA Far North staff also continue to link in with relevant webinars run by the State Government, Commonwealth Government, economic development institutions, business support and advocacy bodies and others. These webinars continue to be key in keeping up to date with the latest industry information, opportunities and learnings from other regions across regional Australia.

### **National Recovery and Resilience Agency**

RDA Far North worked with the Regional Coordinator for the National Recovery and Resilience Agency to promote workshop events in the Far North SA area.

### **Quarterly Economic Bulletin**

RDA Far North continued to work with RDA Yorke and Mid North and RDA Eyre Peninsula to release a combined quarterly Economic Bulletin for the three RDA regions.

### **Leigh Creek Task Force**

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager kept in regular communication with members of the Task Force to ensure assistance was provided to businesses through the transition. This included looking at potential commercial opportunities and impacts of demolition as well as assisting with the business transition process. The Business Development Manager also attended the Leigh Creek Transformation Forum.

### **Waste Management Action Plan Reference Group**

RDA Far North submitted an expression of interest to join the Waste Management Action Plan Reference Group, which was successful. RDA Far North's interest in the committee stems from a desire to better understand the potential benefits for Far North Councils from this work. RDA Far North is the RDA representative on this committee for the wider region, covering the Far North, Barossa, and Yorke and Mid North regions.

### **Spencer Gulf Cities**

During the year, RDA Far North attended several meetings and events for Spencer Gulf Cities. Projects of common interest and opportunities to collaborate were discussed. Other topics covered in these meetings including:

- Meeting with the Planning Commission and AGD-PLUS team
- Business/industry summit
- Community and social services summit
- Transport infrastructure Plan review consultation

### **Natural Resource Management**

Quarterly common interest meetings were held with the NRM team to discuss projects of common purpose and opportunities for collaboration. RDA Far North also participated in the Pastoral Field Day held in Port Augusta.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Active member of **19** committees, working groups and other stakeholder groups across the region

**Monthly meetings with**  
Port Augusta, Flinders Ranges, Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs Councils and Outback Communities Authority

**2**

MEETINGS

Regional Development Strategy Steering Committee

**20**

MEETINGS

RDA SA CEO fortnightly meetings

**12**

MEETINGS

SA Tourism Commission

**4**

MEETINGS

Primary Industries and Regions SA

**8**

MEETINGS

Upper Spencer Gulf Employment, Skills and Workforce Taskforce

**8**

MEETINGS

North West Country Local Jobs Program

**3**

MEETINGS

Jobs and Skills Taskforce

**2**

MEETINGS

Waste and Resource Management Strategy and Action Plan

**6**

MEETINGS

Water and Infrastructure Corridor Steering Committee

**28**

MEETINGS

Non Voting Member of Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy and Quorn Business Groups/Associations

**12**

MEETINGS

Non-voting member of the Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism organisation

**2**

MEETINGS

Member of the Outback Roads Action Group

**24** Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) meetings

**56** government consultation sessions/surveys/inquiries/advisory groups provided input to/hosted

**6** teleconferences with Minister Merino

**1**

Member of the Cultana Expansion Area Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

**4**

Keynote dinner events facilitated

**8**

Monthly meetings with Local Member

**3**

Briefings provided to Local Member on specific challenges facing the region

**5**

Presentations/involvement in events resulting in promotion/recognition of regional activities

**4** Natural Resource Management roundtables

**3** Adelaide Business Hub Meetings

**5** Rural Business Solutions Financial Counsellor Sessions

**6**

MEETINGS

BHP Local Buying Foundation Advisory Committee

**5**

MEETINGS

FRO & Tourism Australia for the National Responsible Tourism Project

**5**

MEETINGS

Commonwealth facilitated Town Hall

**2**

SESSIONS

Spencer Gulf Cities Regional Priorities Forum

## 7.4 POPULATION

RDA Far North continued to play an active role in supporting projects and initiatives that help to attract new residents. The team kept abreast of programs which focused on supporting investment or the attraction of investment into the region. This involved maintaining knowledge about available programs, eligibility requirements and making connections to known projects and opportunities within the region.

### Regional Leadership Program

The funding agreement was received and executed earlier, and staff commenced working on the project in late April 2022. This is a two-year project with these key deliverables:

- To establish a local and diverse program steering committee
- Engagement with key stakeholders to conduct a gap analysis of the region's current and future leadership needs.
- Identification of community cohorts that are underrepresented in formal leadership roles
- Identification of existing leadership programs being delivered or accessed by community members
- Consideration of the skills and capabilities that are required for current and future leaders in the region to inform program design, including governance, finance, adaptive leadership, and community resilience.

The new Leadership Program Manager has been busy undertaking the first stage of the project. The outcome of this will be recommendations for the design of the program which will go to board members for consideration and endorsement.

### Live, Work and Play Initiative

The Live, Work and Play Initiative was released across the region in January 2022. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, a physical launch event was not possible.

The digital marketing campaign was intensely targeted over a three-month period. It included specific clips for the Flinders Ranges, Outback Community Authority, and Port Augusta areas, as well as a generic Far North SA region clip. The campaign has had a very positive response and share rate on social media since it launched.

This project was funded as part of the Regional Workforce Initiative and Woof Media were engaged to undertake the work.

The recent Regional Mover Index, which reports movement between Australia's regions and capital cities, showed Port Augusta among the top five LGA regional hotspots for growth. The latest index report shows the number of city people moving to Port Augusta was up 7% from the previous January to March 2022 quarter.

### New Resident Support

During the financial year, RDA Far North met with the Department of Home Affairs Regional Outreach Officer (Migration). The purpose of this engagement was to better understand the level of assistance, which can be provided to new residents. The Outreach Officer also provided valuable information about other services the Department provides.

### Assistance to Local Organisations

RDA Far North continued to assist local organisations and sporting clubs with funding applications for community events and infrastructure projects. These projects all contribute to the attractiveness of the region and lifestyle.

### Regional Australia Institute Regional Activators Alliance

The Regional Australia Institute Regional Activators Alliance called for case studies through the USGC group in late 2021 for their Regional Activator #makethemove campaign. This campaign focuses on people who have made the move to our region from a capital city or interstate. Stories and experiences are shared to highlight why other potential metropolitan/interstate movers should make the move.

### Population Retention and Growth Workshop

RDA Far North facilitated a regional Population retention and Growth workshop with 22 participants from across various sectors.

### Seasonal and Regional Workforce Program

RDA Far North was successful in gaining a 12-month extension of the Seasonal and Regional Workforce Program, funded by PIRSA. This program is in response to challenges to fill job vacancies across the region and links employees with employers.

### Support to the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA)

RDA Far North has provided ongoing support to the ICPA on community project.

### Port Augusta Career Expo

RDA Far North assisted with the organisation of a Career Expo held in Port Augusta.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Australia Day Council of South Australia Assistance

The RDA Far North team provided assistance to the Australia Day Council of South Australia with contacts and locations for the Tour of Honour for the Upper Spencer Gulf Region. The tour brought Australians of the Year and South Australians of the Year to Port Augusta for a public forum in November 2021.

### Visits to Regional Communities

RDA Far North staff travelled more than 160,000 kilometres during the 2021/22 financial year. Staff met with stakeholders in these places:

- Port Augusta
- Quorn
- Hawker
- Coober Pedy
- Pimba
- Woomera
- Leigh Creek
- Copley
- Andamooka
- Lyndhurst
- Roxby Downs
- Yunta
- Marla
- Oodnadatta
- Marree
- Glendambo
- Innamincka
- Beltana
- Blinman
- Craddock

### DEVELOPMENT OF DESIGNATED AREA MIGRATION AGREEMENT (DAMA) BY 2020

Regional DAMA developed

### INDUSTRY NEEDS UNDERSTOOD AND ACTION UNDERTAKEN TO MEET THEM

Established strong connection and understanding of the Regional Outreach Officer role

Live, Work and Play campaign developed and released in January 2022 and has seen an increase of 7% of people relocating from capital cities to Port Augusta from January to March 2022

## 7.5 CONNECTIVITY

### Assistance to Telstra

RDA Far North assisted Telstra with an application for Round 2 of the Regional Connectivity Program. If successful, this project would enable the upgrade of the Oakden site, providing new and improved mobile network coverage and capacity. It will result in improved mobile voice, data capacity, a separate IOT platform, and improved mobile network performance for the Far North SA and other areas.

### Regional Connectivity Program

RDA Far North continued to work with Telstra on two projects which will see increased connectivity in the Northern Flinders Ranges and APY Lands. Telstra was successful in gaining \$2,732,531 funding from the Regional Connectivity Program in the previous financial year (2020/21).

### Ernabella Project

This project will upgrade the backhaul capacity to the existing Telstra 4G mobile tower in Ernabella (Pukatja). The upgrade will provide improved coverage and user throughput speeds for the Ernabella township and the surrounding community, including the local airstrip.

### Far North Project

This project will upgrade key transmission infrastructure between Hawker and Leigh Creek in South Australia's Far North, expanding the available core network capacity into Leigh Creek and Marree. This will facilitate the provision of fixed broadband services to Leigh Creek Area School and Marree Aboriginal School. The project will also upgrade the transmission capacity at Telstra's Mount Scott and Leigh Creek base stations, enabling improved 4G access. Telstra also will commission 4G Satellite Small Cells into the communities of Dalhousie Springs, Yunyarinyi, Nyapari, Murputja, Kalka, Kanpi and Watinuma.

### Mobile Black Spot Program

Round five of this program was released. RDA Far North worked with Telstra to assist with their application. This involved identifying priority blackspots, such as the black spot between Oz Minerals and Coober Pedy. Fixing this black spot would alleviate some transport safety challenges for tourists in the region. Some visitors underestimate their fuel tank capacity and become stranded with no fuel and no mobile coverage to seek assistance. RDA Far North will continue to work through the list of black spots in the Far North region.

### Assistance to NBN Co

NBN Co's Business Fibre Initiative created 240 business fibre zones across Australia, including 85 in regional centres. Port Augusta is the only location in the Far North region currently. The RDA Far North team have continued to build a positive working relationship with the new NBN team, and we have liaised with local government and business associations/groups. We also invited the NBN team to participate in business forum events RDA Far North facilitated with the Adelaide Digital Business Hub, part of the Digital Business Program we are running.

### Digital Business Forums

RDA Far North held two digital business forums in the region - one in Quorn 6 December and a second in Port Augusta 7 December 2021. Over 40 businesses attended each event which is excellent attendance. The main focus of these workshops was social media and establishing a web presence.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

8

New mobile black spot locations funded by 2021

Announcement made by Federal Government that under the Mobile Blackspot Program the following locations in the Far North region would receive communications solutions: Arkaroola, Cadney Park, Cradock, Flinders Ranges Way, Lyndhurst, Nepabunna, Pichi Richi Pass, Blinman, Copley, Leigh Creek, Mintabie and Farina

Participated in Regional Connectivity Townhall with Minister Fletcher providing overview of Federal Governments plan for regional connectivity

PERCENTAGE OF CONNECTIONS / TAKE-UP OF NBN IN THE REGION WITH AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 60% BY 2021.

Uptake in various Local Government areas as follows:

53%

The Flinders Ranges Council  
Fibre to the Node 53%  
(same as June 2021)

37%

The Flinders Ranges Council  
Fixed Wireless 37%  
(up 2% from June 2021)

68%

Roxby Downs Council 68%  
(no change from June 2021)

5%

Roxby Downs Council  
Satellite 5%  
(up 1% from June 2021)

40%

District Council of Coober Pedy 40%  
(no change from June 2021)

10%

District Council of Coober Pedy  
Satellite 10%  
(no change from June 2021)

69%

Port Augusta City Council  
Fibre to the Premises 69%  
(up 4% from June 2021)

6%

Port Augusta City Council  
Fibre to building 6%  
(no change from June 2021)

37%

Port Augusta City Council  
Fixed Wireless 37%  
(no change from June 2021)

28%

Port Augusta City Council  
Satellite 28%  
(no change from June 2021)

25%

Outback Communities Authority  
Satellite 25%  
(no change from June 2021)

23%

APY Lands  
Satellite 23%  
(no change from June 2021)

2 DIGITAL WORKSHOPS HELD WITH 40 ATTENDEES

## 7.6 TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

### Strategic Freight Studies

RDA Far North assisted the Department for Infrastructure and Transport with their transport planning study for Far North SA. Our team assisted with local connections and coordinated the consultation. This study is part of a package of studies investigating improvements to several major transport routes across South Australia.

### Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships Program

RDA Far North were an in-kind partner with UniSA in a grant application for the Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships Program, along with State Government and other industry partners. If funded, a feasibility study and demand study investigating connecting regional and remote South Australia with Adelaide using air taxis (eVOTLs) will be undertaken.

### Sealing of the Strzelecki Track

For many years, RDA Far North lobbied government about the need for sealing of the Strzelecki Track. The road is a vital supply link for major oil and gas facilities in the Cooper Basin. It is also an essential transport corridor for outback communities, tourism, and pastoralists.

Both Federal and State Government committed funding to this project to the tune of \$215 million and sealing of the road commenced in 2020. This project is still ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2025. RDA Far North will continue to monitor the progress of this key strategic transport infrastructure project.

### SA Government Electric Vehicle Charging Rollout

RDA Far North continued to assist the State Government with their electric vehicle charging rollout plan in regional SA. The team have helped to identify appropriate travel corridors throughout the region and also kept local government and businesses informed of the opportunities.

The state government have now engaged a supplier (RAA) to roll out the charging stations. RDA Far North have met with the RAA to discuss opportunities for us to assist.

The RDA Far North team have also provided introductions between the state government electric vehicle team and local councils in the Far North SA region.

So far, it is anticipated that Port Augusta to Leigh Creek and from Port Augusta to the Northern Territory Border will be electric vehicle travel enabled.

### Regional Infrastructure Strengths and Gaps Consultation

RDA Far North continued to liaise with the Chief Executive and Chief Policy Officer at Infrastructure Australia in relation to the Regional Infrastructure Strengths and Gaps project. Regular updates are provided on the project, including key findings and next steps.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### PARTICIPATE IN 6 LOBBYING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARY AND SENATE INQUIRY SUBMISSIONS

Submission to  
Infrastructure South  
Australia's priority  
listing consultation

Two submissions to  
Infrastructure Australia  
Infrastructure Priority List

Briefing to  
Minister Brock  
– regional roads

Briefing to  
Infrastructure SA

### DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY LIST FOR THE REGION WITH ANNUAL REVIEW

Infrastructure Priority  
List developed

Listing currently being reviewed with  
several projects completed

Assisted DIT and SGC  
with their regional consultations

### 10 MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Two Outback Roads  
Action Group  
meetings

Meeting with SA Freight  
Council relating to  
freight route priorities  
in the region

Four meetings with  
Infrastructure SA relating  
to transport routes  
across the region

Three meetings with State  
Government representatives  
from different Departments  
relating to flood damage

## 7.7 TERTIARY EDUCATION

During 2021/22, RDA Far North continued to support the Community Owned Tertiary Education Centre (COTEC) initiative and other initiatives which seek to enable regional access to tertiary education.

### **Port Augusta Uni Hub Assistance**

RDA Far North discussed funding opportunities with Port Augusta Uni Hub to potentially expand to Roxby Downs. Uni Hub have seen some interest and increased student enrolments from this area. RDA Far North also continued working with Uni Hub to service Coober Pedy.

A bursary fund was also developed to assist students from the Far North region with costs associated with study through the Port Augusta Uni Hub.

### **South Australian Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub**

RDA Far North participated as a partner organisation with the University of Adelaide, Primary Industries and Regions SA, and the South Australian Research and Development Institute, for a South Australian Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub. The hub is one of eight in Australia established by the Federal Government. The RDA Far North team continues to be actively involved in the steering committee meetings, working closely with all stakeholders. The hub has nodes in each of the regions, including a pastoral node in Port Augusta, low rainfall nodes in Orroroo and Minnipa, and other southern nodes. Node coordinators have now been appointed. These coordinators are responsible for planning and implementing demand-driven initiatives that focus on innovation and adoption to assist pastoralists, famers, and regional communities to become more drought resilient.

### **Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program**

Regional drought resilience planning in South Australia is being led by RDA Far North, RDA Yorke and Mid North, Outback Communities Authority, and RDA Murraylands and Riverland. RDA Far North continues to be an active member of the steering committee for the Yorke and Mid North plan and will do the same with OCA.

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program aims to help regionally based collaborations construct regional drought resilience plans. With an emphasis on agriculture and related businesses, these strategies will identify and guide new approaches to increase drought resilience in the future. The program will see the development of community-led and owned regional plans. Regional organisations, local governments, communities, and industry groups will form partnerships, and plans will be established through a collaborative design process.

### **University of South Australia Discussions**

RDA Far North met with UniSA to discuss emerging passenger transport drone aviation. This project has very exciting potential for connecting outback regions.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD AND FOCUS OF MEETINGS

2

Two meetings held focused on UniHub expansion to service Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy and funding bids to co-fund site co-ordinators

5

Five meetings held focused on the implementation of the Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub in South Australia

4

Four meetings held focused on the implementation of the Port Augusta Pastoral Node as part of the Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub

13

Thirteen meetings held of the NWC Jobs and Skills Taskforce focused on delivering on Commonwealth funding for initiatives which address workforce training shortages in the region

## 7.8 DECENTRALISATION

RDA Far North continued to support the movement of government and industry offices to the region. The Commonwealth are in the early stages of developing a Regional Decentralisation Discussion Paper, which will guide a national discussion on the agenda and further policy development. The RDA Far North team will provide a submission when the paper is released for feedback.

Prior to the change in government, the RDA Far North team met with Minister Marino, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, and Minister Gee, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education about the Government's Regional Decentralisation Agenda.

### Regionalisation Strategic Project

The Regionalisation Project was completed during the 2021/22 financial year. RDA Far North undertook an economic analysis of the value of relocation of government and industry officers to the Far North region. The final report and infographic for the Regionalisation Strategic Project has been uploaded to the RDA website. The report was provided to The Hon Bridget McKenzie, who was involved in the previous government's decentralisation agenda. A copy was also given to the Regional Australia Institute as part of their most recent Regions Rising Events Series.

### Assistance to Start-Ups in the Region

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager fielded a number of enquiries from start-ups in the region. Assistance varied, but included:

- Planning and document preparation
- Assisting to develop capability statements
- Referrals to local contacts for insurance and accounting services
- Assistance with ABN registration
- Assistance with lease agreements and tender documents
- Assistance with site selection options

### Assistance to Expanding Businesses

RDA Far North continued to assist clients looking to expand in the region. Assistance included:

- Undertaking business reviews
- Profitability, accounting, and invoicing updates
- Marketing plan reviews
- Connection to mentoring opportunities

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Two consultation opportunities offered and participated in.
- Undertook an economic analysis of the value of relocation of Government and Industry officers could be to the Far North which showed the following potential impacts:
  - Additional 867 jobs in the region
  - Additional \$181.79 million in output
  - \$111.88 million in additional industry value-added
- Participated in Regionalisation Townhall meeting with Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie presenting on the Australian Governments regionalisation agenda
- Sought/provided advice on which services or offices are required in the region
  - Aided several local developments focused on providing accommodation for corporate travellers both in terms of office accommodation and overnight accommodation.
  - Continued assistance provided to a serviced office hub development with connections to potential tenants, grant funding opportunities and data to assist in investment support.
  - Management services provided to the Business Centre which provides serviced office accommodation.
  - Continue to work with all levels of Government regarding essential services in the region and lobby where appropriate.



## 8. CASE STUDIES

### COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION

The work undertaken by RDA Far North to support businesses and essential services across the region has been significant. Understanding what the local businesses and community want, as well as what current natural and manufactured infrastructure the region possesses, has been critical to providing meaningful services.

By way of example, RDA Far North has provided over two thousand hours of intensive one-on-one assistance to businesses in Leigh Creek over its transition due to the closure of the coal mine, which the town was built to service.

Our team visited Leigh Creek on a monthly basis to assist businesses, the Progress Association, and community groups; in addition, the team uses their free time to explore the area and uncover new possibilities, allowing us to gain a better understanding of the area, businesses, and community aspirations.

This year provided an additional 895 hours of intensive support by RDA Far North to Leigh Creek businesses. In demonstration, 321 hours of intense support has been provided as part of the Leigh Creek Foodland ownership transition, with some of that work done independently by RDA Far North, some on behalf of a Government Taskforce, and some in collaboration with the Taskforce.

Added to this was the work undertaken since July 2021 to specifically support tourism in Leigh Creek is listed as follows.:

- Numerous meetings with Business and community in Leigh Creek.
- Consulting with Local Government stakeholder town management consistently to ensure a collaborative approach.
- Understanding the lack of digital content and facilitating discussions with Web developers to rebuild the Leigh Creek website and assisting throughout the rebuild.
- Added Aroona Dam, The Akurra trail and Copley Bakery to [www.atdw.com.au](http://www.atdw.com.au) giving those attractions additional visibility on websites like [southaustralia.com](http://southaustralia.com) and [Australia.com](http://Australia.com)
- Expanding the Aroona Dam attraction and uncovering Retention Dam for possible future investment with both locations now signposted appropriately to encourage visitation.
- Investigated the Leigh Creek to Copley cycling trail to understand if it was a marketable trail providing that research and recommendations to the Town Manager.

- Assisted with the development of a cycling strategy for Leigh Creek, which will enable Leigh Creek to apply for funding to build trails to attract visitors to the region. This aligns with a soon to be released statewide strategy on cycling.
- Signage added to Aroona Dam 500m before the turn off in each direction, so consumers can appropriately slow to enter the corner.
- Assisted the Leigh Creek Historical Society from the beginning of the Black rock concept, to build and market to consumers. This also included accessing Port Augusta Power Station items from Port Augusta City Council and having them loaned to Leigh Creek as part of the historical museum in Leigh Creek and the Visitors Information Outlet (VIO).
- Assisted the Progress Association work through business ideas for the VIO, including the coffee installation enabling income generation. Other ideas will become a reality as the town transitions and the VIO has regular staffing levels.
- Facilitated an ED forum in Leigh Creek, briefing attendees on the Aussie Travel Code, communicating the importance of tourism in the region, and the marketing advantages and importance of being part of the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) a powerful marketing tool.
- We have ensured that Leigh Creek was a location for an Electric Vehicle charge station, via the RAA rollout; originally Leigh Creek was not included, and we were able to put forward a successful case for its inclusion.

All of our work in this area has been further underpinned by the RDA Far North team including Leigh Creek in discussions with stakeholders at a local, state, or national level, including (but not limited to the following):

- The Department of Trade and Investment
- The Department of Mining
- The Department of Environment and Water
- The Department of Infrastructure
- The South Australian Tourism Commission
- The World Heritage Community engagement group
- RAA
- Private investors
- Marketing, including SA based celebrities international magazines, and local TV shows

These discussions serve to construct a picture of Leigh Creek as a hub for the Northern Flinders Ranges. There is much that is unknown about the town, and many hours have been spent constructing an image of Leigh Creek that will allow it to live up to its name. Land promotion for investment, the value of the huge runway for tourism, and nature-based attractions such as Aroona and the Retention Dams.

Making people aware of the area, its attractions, capabilities, and prospects has been a benefit to the Leigh Creek area over the last year as a result of our active marketing role. Leigh Creek has been presented to various government departments, media businesses, and investors through RDA Far North's networks, using positive language to help change the town's perspective.

We secured Vogue and National Geographic who traveled through Leigh Creek, stopping at all of the locations that RDA Far North has been promoting for the past 12 to 18 months, providing the area with a plethora of marketing opportunities.

Furthermore, Leigh Creek images have been added to RDA Far North's Live Work Play Campaign, which RDA Far North will continue to promote through social media, and we continue to promote the Leigh Creek region on the Flinders Ranges and Outback social media page, which has over 10,000 followers.

Our team has been able to strongly push for Leigh Creek to be considered a destination by immersing ourselves in the area when we are there. This is just one of the many ways we're working to make Leigh Creek a fun place to visit, with opportunities to learn about the town's mining past and progress beyond mining, all while assisting Leigh Creek's transition to a more sustainable economic future.

The help RDA Far North provided businesses in Leigh Creek has enabled them to operate in a favourable manner. Furthermore, it is fair to argue that RDA Far North's pivotal participation in the supermarket's transition was critical, allowing that vital service to remain in Leigh Creek for the benefit of immediate residents as well as the broader community who have long relied on it. Note this could also be said for some of the other businesses in Leigh Creek, that without the assistance provided, they would not be in operation today.



# 9. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Financial Statements cover Regional Development Australia Far North Incorporated as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars, which is RDA Far North Incorporated's functional and presentation currency. RDA Far North Inc is a not-for-profit incorporated association, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and place of business is: 2A Stirling Road, Port Augusta SA 5700A description of the nature of the incorporated association's operations and its principal activities are included in the officer's report, which is not part of the financial statements. These statements were authorised for issue on 24th November 2022.

### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Your committee submit the financial statements of the Regional Development Australia Far North Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

#### Committee Members

The following persons were members of the incorporated association during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

**Chairperson:** Mark Sutton

**Public Officer:** Claire Wiseman

**Committee:** Trevor Wright (appointed 30/09/2021)

Linley Shine (appointed 30/09/2021)

Greg Flint (appointed 30/09/2021)

Scott McKay (appointed 30/09/2021)

Kerry Mudge (appointed 30/09/2021)

Dave Petersen (appointed 30/09/2021)

Sam Johnson, Mark Fennell, Lucy Morphet,

Craig Crespi, Colin Davies

In accordance with Section 35 (5) of the Associations Incorporation Act (1985), the committee hereby states that during the financial year ended 30 June 2022:

- a) i. No officer of the Association
- ii. no firm of which an officer is a member; and
- iii. 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 except for the following:

- Mark Sutton, Director of the Outback Communities Authority – Stakeholder
- Greg Flint, Mayor of The Flinders Ranges Council – Stakeholder
- Linley Shine, Councillor of the Port Augusta City Council – Stakeholder
- Trevor Wright, Board Member of the Outback Communities Authority – Stakeholder
- Sam Johnson, Board Member of the Outback Communities Authority – Stakeholder
- Scott McKay, Board Member of Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf – Client

- b) No officer of the Association has received directly or indirectly from the Association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value except for the reimbursement of travel expenses and honoraria for Mark Sutton, Colin Davies, Lucy Morphet and Sam Johnson.

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to provide strategic and targeted responses to economic, environmental and social issues affecting the region.

#### Operating Result

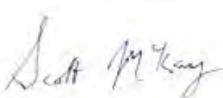
The surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities amounted to:

30/06/2022	30/06/2021
\$ (41,100)	\$ 59,461

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



**CHAIRPERSON**



**DEPUTY CHAIR**

**Dated this 24th day of November 2022**

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

REVENUE	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
Funding revenue	2	825,722	675,692
Interest		6,760	12,510
Project Income		215,683	303,108
Sundry Income	2	24,478	118,688
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>1,072,643</b>	<b>1,109,998</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employment Expenses		717,492	714,608
Depreciation	5	2,175	831
Project Expenses		44,940	33,412
Other Operational Expenses	3	349,136	301,686
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>1,113,743</b>	<b>1,050,537</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(41,100)</b>	<b>59,461</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

CURRENT ASSETS	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,656,812	1,346,200
Trade and other receivables	6	72,289	15,762
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,729,101</b>	<b>1,361,962</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	8,701	10,876
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>		<b>8,701</b>	<b>10,876</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,737,802</b>	<b>1,372,838</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	36,437	37,508
Accrued Wages		16,459	17,956
Amounts Received in Advance		71,694	-
Employee Benefits		118,682	92,475
Projects in progress	8	993,381	715,796
Provision for Long Service Leave		119,133	85,987
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,355,787</b>	<b>949,723</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,355,787</b>	<b>949,723</b>
<b>NET ASSETS / LIABILITIES</b>		<b>382,015</b>	<b>423,115</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Surplus		423,115	363,654
Current Surplus / (Deficit)		(41,100)	59,461
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>382,015</b>	<b>423,115</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2022 \$</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>
Funding & Other receipts	1,009,355	2,408,801
Payments to suppliers and employees	(705,504)	(2,317,470)
Interest received	6,760	12,510
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	310,612	103,841
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payments for Plant & Equipment	-	(7,553)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) plant &amp; equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,553)</b>
 Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	310,612	96,288
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	1,346,200	1,249,912
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<b>1,656,812</b>	<b>1,346,200</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1 STATEMENT 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 1985 (South Australia). The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

#### (a) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

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

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

#### (b) 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.

#### (c) 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.

#### (d) 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.

#### (e) Economic Dependency

The ongoing operations of RDA Far North Inc 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 Far North Inc. continue to run a number of unfunded programs using their own operational funding. Without the support of the government, the special projects may not be viable to continue.

#### (f) Plant & Equipment

Plant and Equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the Association to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows, that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

#### (g) Depreciation of Non Current Assets

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a diminishing value basis over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

- Class of Fixed Asset Depreciation Rate
- Plant and Equipment 18%-40%
- Office Equipment 10%-33.3%



**(h) Maintenance and Repairs**

Maintenance, repair costs and minor renewals are expensed when incurred. This includes IT maintenance charges.

**(i) Employee Benefits**

Employee benefits are accrued on a pro rata basis for annual leave and long service leave up to the reporting date.

No accrual for sick leave has been made because it is non-vesting. The best estimate of the sick leave expense for the reporting period is the actual amount paid for the year.

The superannuation expense for the reporting period is the amount of the statutory contribution the Association has applied to wages and salaries. These entitlements have been paid to the employees' nominated superannuation funds.

The Association has this year recognised all Long Service Leave entitlements as current given they're due and payable.

**(j) Leases**

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

The Association has no finance leases as at reporting date.

**(k) Income Tax**

The income of the Association is exempt from Income Tax under Section 50(5) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**(l) Goods & Service Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

**(m) Comparative Figures**

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

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>2 REVENUE</b>	<b>2022 \$</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>
Funding - Regions SA	436,792	295,909
Funding - DIRD	233,590	226,759
Funding - Councils	155,340	153,024
	<b>825,722</b>	<b>675,692</b>
<b>Sundry Income</b>		
Misc Income	24,478	17,649
Workcover Reimbursement	-	352
Cash Flow Boost 2	-	100,000
CRA Bonus Payment	-	688
	<b>24,478</b>	<b>118,688</b>

### 3 OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

<b>Includes</b>		
Auditors Remuneration	8,650	3,750
Board Member & Meeting Expenses	26,278	28,351
Subs/Memberships/Publications	46,609	38,111
Staff Travel & Accommodation	31,269	33,838
Motor Vehicle Expenses	15,812	16,966
Rent for Premises	17,830	21,575

### 4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at Bank - General	97,824	29,595
Cash at Bank - Other	656,035	413,658
Cash at Bank - Term Deposit	889,336	885,119
Expense Account	13,416	17,747
Petty Cash - Admin	200	81
	<b>1,656,812</b>	<b>1,346,200</b>

### 5 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

At cost	112,241	112,241
Less Accumulated depreciation	(103,540)	(101,365)
	<b>8,701</b>	<b>10,876</b>

Movements in carrying amounts for property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

<b>Balance at beginning of year</b>	10,876	4,154
Additions	-	7,553
Depreciation expenses	(2,175)	(831)
Carrying amount at end of year	<b>8,701</b>	<b>10,876</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>6 TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>2022 \$</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>
Debtors	72,254	11,500
GST		
- GST Collected	(8,811)	(11,401)
- GST Paid	8,846	15,662
	<b>72,289</b>	<b>15,762</b>

<b>7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Trade payables	12,391	18,801
Other creditors and accruals	24,046	18,706
	<b>36,437</b>	<b>37,507</b>

<b>8 PROJECT IN PROGRESS</b>		
Deputy CEO	30,900	22,510
Tourism Development Manager	81,342	73,577
Business Development Manager	35,528	(314)
Leadership Program Manager	124,868	-
Opal Alliance	1,369	1,369
Outback SA Community Inc	9,538	9,538
Marketing & Investment Attractions	35,126	25,349
Workshops and Forums	37,897	31,662
Admin support	294,646	273,061
Economic/Community Development	110,553	98,303
Workforce Development	114,504	121,985
RDA Grant Fund - PIRSA	550	(21,750)
Economic Growth & Investments Strategy	5,633	6,633
Digital Solutions SA Program	9,983	9,983
Lake Eyre Economic Analysis	900	900
Strategic Projects	49,028	60,500
Regional Workforce CCP	25,240	1,289
Customer Relations Management	20,000	-
Unihub Bursary Fund	5,775	1,200
	<b>993,381</b>	<b>715,796</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 9 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

2022 \$

2021 \$

Other expenditures committed at the reporting date but not recognised in the Financial Statements as Liabilities

Employee Remuneration contracts	1,327,305	1,040,780
Operating Leases	12,580	12,580
	<b>1,339,885</b>	<b>1,053,360</b>
These Expenditures are payable not later than one year	491,544	484,304
Later than one year & not later than 5 years	848,341	569,056
	<b>1,339,885</b>	<b>1,053,360</b>

### 10 EQUITY

Retained Surpluses (Deficits) at the beginning of the financial year	423,115	357,763
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(41,100)	59,461
Prior Year Adjustment from Projects	-	5,891
Retained Surpluses (Deficits) at the end of the financial year	<b>382,015</b>	<b>423,115</b>

### 11 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Members are not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period that are required to be disclosed.

## STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

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.

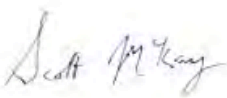
In the opinion of the committee the financial statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Regional Development Australia Far North Inc. as at 30 June 2022 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 Far North 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:**



**CHAIRPERSON**



**DEPUTY CHAIR**

**Dated this 24th day of November 2022**



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Members of Regional Development Australia Far North Incorporated

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Regional Development Australia Far North Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, profit and loss statement, 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 board of management members.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Regional Development Australia Far North Incorporated as at 30 June 2022, 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 Far North 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 Far North 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.

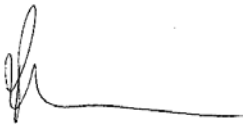
In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association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

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association'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: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Miller', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

R Miller  
Director

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory  
Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

