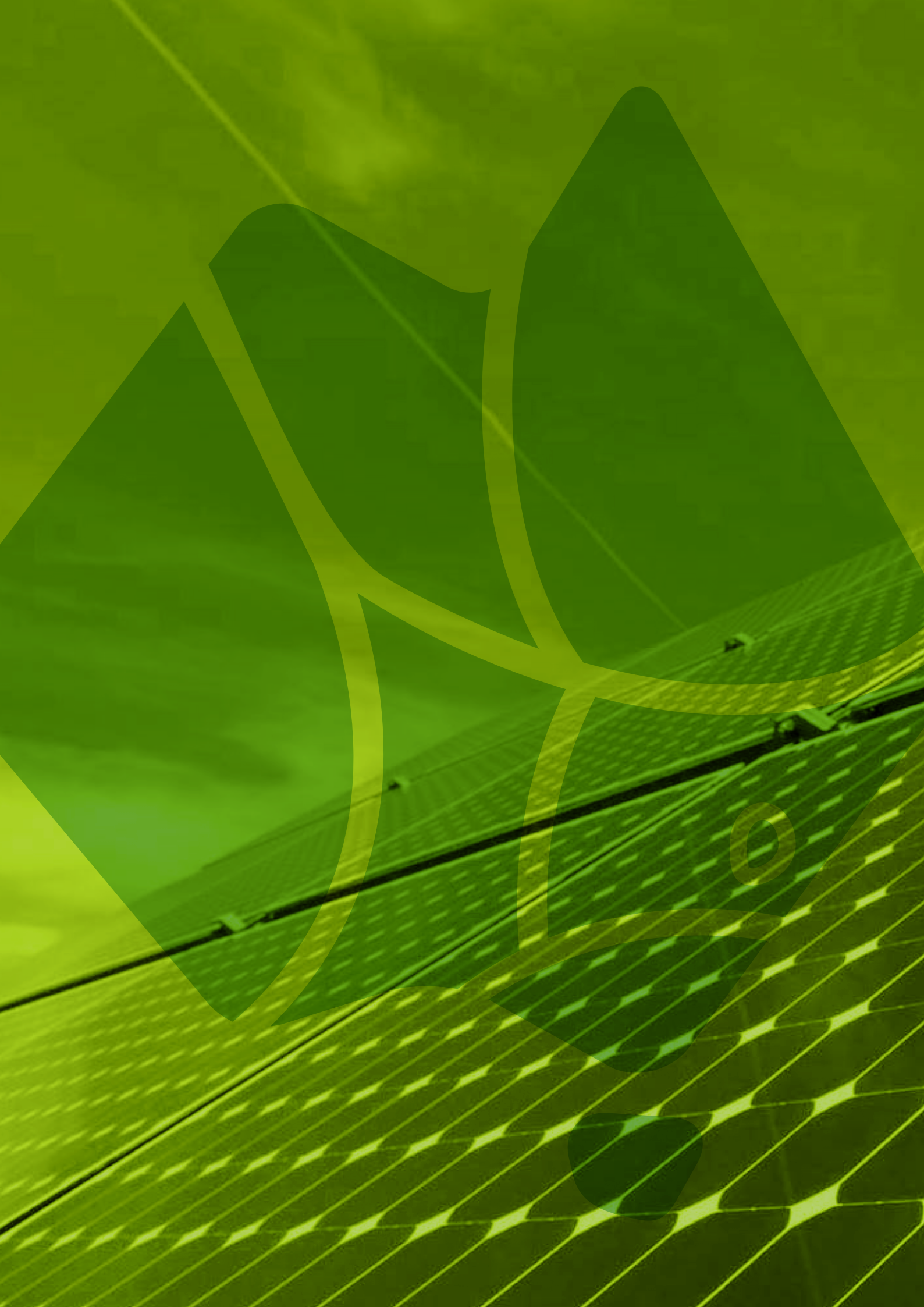




Regional
Development
Australia
F A R N O R T H

ANNUAL **REPORT** 22/23



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1. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

During the year, far north South Australia continued to experience significant growth. RDA Far North key focus areas in support of the region's growth and future sustainability throughout the 2022/23 financial year were:

- **Economic Development:** advancing the major growth sectors in the Far North Investment Pipeline through working with key industry sectors and businesses to assist them reach their potential.
- **Strategic Infrastructure Investment:** identifying strategic infrastructure requiring investment with a focus on connectivity across the Far North further opening the region to industry, tourism, and business.
- **Business Capacity Building:** support private investment by local and regional businesses, and attraction of new industries and businesses addressing market gaps, as well as harnessing the visitor economy through the promotion of the region.
- **Population:** support projects/initiatives which improve the liveability of the Far North Region.
- **Collaboration:** support collaboration with other key stakeholders, including RDA Committees across SA and Australia to share ideas and grow local knowledge.

These key focus areas are supported by several significant infrastructure projects currently underway and planned, numerous large-scale projects in various stages of development, a thriving business community, expanding education facilities/offers, and a plethora of other opportunities.

The pipeline of large investment projects across the region totals \$10.9 billion, creating 10,472 employment opportunities in construction with 3,306 ongoing jobs.

While the expansion and significant number of infrastructure projects and opportunities is positive, it has not been without its challenges. The region has had difficulty managing the pressure on services, housing, labour, business capacity and skills.

The growth in population and economic activity has prompted a rise in housing demand. Home expenses increased and there was a shortage of available, affordable housing due to the demand outweighing supply. The need to identify appropriate housing infrastructure to support the expanding resident and itinerant population has become a priority. The solution will require innovative and progressive thinking as the vast majority of regional Australia also grapples with this issue.

The region's growth has increased the demand for a skilled workforce required to meet the needs of the diversity of business and projects now in operation. Initiatives to recruit talent from other regions and funding from regional skills development programs have been needed to help bridge the gap.

Infrastructure projects faced additional challenges during the construction phase of the projects. Managing logistics, ensuring projects were finished on time, minimising disruption to existing services, and coordinating multiple stakeholders were some of the bigger challenges experienced.

Additionally, the region's growing population has put pressure on existing public services such as healthcare, childcare, utilities, and other social services. The current limited capacity of these services has resulted in a struggle to cope with increased demands. The flow on effect unfortunately will place pressure on the long-term liveability and marketability of the region.

In an effort to address these challenges, RDA Far North continues to work closely with regional stakeholders, inclusive of the three tiers of government, business, educational institutions, and business and industry organisations to identify the gaps and opportunities.

Looking forward, RDA Far North will continue to be a key program partner and enabler for the region for and on behalf of the people who live, work and visit it.

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 community representatives. 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 Scott McKay	Committee Member	30/09/2024
Ms Lucy Morphet	Committee Member	30/09/2024
Mr Kerry Mudge	Committee Member	30/04/2024
Ms Linley Shine	Committee Member	30/09/2026
Mr Trevor Wright	Committee Member	30/11/2023
Mr Greg Flint	Committee Member	30/11/2023
Mr Geoff Sheridan	Committee Member	30/09/2025
Ms Patsy Reynolds	Committee Member	30/09/2025

OPERATIONAL TEAM

Name	Position
Ms Claire Wiseman	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Greg Williams	Business Development Manager
Ms Tara Hogg	Tourism and Marketing Manager
Mr Andrew Padgett	Economic Development Manager
Ms Renata Hackett	Leadership Program Manager
Ms Shari Dodd	Office Manager
Ms Lee-Anne Dalla Santa	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, Communications and the Arts
- 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 2022/23 financial year:

Commonwealth Government

Core funding for administrative positions and operational purposes

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

- \$235,000

Local Government

Core funding for administrative positions and operational purposes

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

- \$138,571

State Government

Far North Economic Growth and Investment

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

- \$399,000

Tourism Service Delivery

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

- \$76,935

Regional Workforce Coordination Initiative

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

- \$30,000

Regional Leadership Program

15 February 2022 – 30 June 2023

- \$125,000

The significant third-party contracts are with the State Government and Local Government partners. Without this additional 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 renewable energy production, innovative horticultural and agricultural production, and thriving service, tourism and retail sectors.



\$10.9 billion
in investment pipeline,
creating **10,472**
employment opportunities
during construction
and **3,306** ongoing.



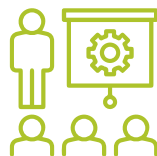
over **\$18 million** in
regional investment
attracted into the region,
securing **\$8.8 million** in
local procurement and
creating **43** jobs in
construction and **10** ongoing.



53 proponents
assisted with
funding applications.
\$398,600 in grant
funding successful.



over **143**
meetings held
with regional
stakeholders.



11 workshops
delivered with
129 businesses
participating.



\$1.8 million
in expansion projects in
small business,
creating **20** new
ongoing employment
opportunities.



3 Investment
attraction campaigns
securing **\$45,000** in
local procurement and
an **11%** increase
in regional movers.



7 industry
consultation sessions
ensuring direct
input from
regional industry.



Active member
of **13** working
groups focused
on specific
challenges and
opportunities
across the region.



Business support
services provided
to **607** small
businesses and **22**
business/community
organisations.

6. PROGRESS TOWARDS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN 2022/23

6.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During 2022/23, RDA Far North continued to promote the region's attributes to encourage private investment by local and regional businesses and the attraction of new industries and businesses.

The team monitored the investment pipeline of projects throughout the year. The pipeline of large investment projects across the region as at 30 June 2023 totalled \$10.9 billion, creating 10,472 employment opportunities in construction and a further 3,306 ongoing jobs. This includes:

- **Private Investment**
\$383,753,956 with 684 construction jobs and 314 ongoing jobs
- **Community Projects**
\$52,693,492 with 280 construction jobs and 73 ongoing jobs
- **Cultural Projects**
\$1,800,000 with 50 construction jobs and 20 ongoing jobs
- **Infrastructure Projects**
\$4,050,714,531 with 3,390 construction jobs and 1,534 ongoing jobs
- **Minerals and Resources**
\$1,100,150,000 with 1,501 construction jobs
- **Renewable Projects**
\$5,314,260,500 with 4,567 construction jobs and 1,365 ongoing jobs.

The agricultural sector and tourism industry make a significant contribution to the Far North SA region's economy. Throughout the year, RDA Far North worked with both of these industries to provide access to resources and technology. Additionally, the team provided support to investors in infrastructure development.

RDA Far North has continued to collaborate with all levels of government and workforce committees on a range of workforce-enabling strategies. This has included regional investment and skilled worker attraction campaigns, employer of choice support, and work towards affordable housing and employment growth opportunities.

The RDA Far North team worked with current and new regional developers. Assistance included meetings with proponents, linkages to State Government agencies and to local contractors and suppliers, and promotion of consultation and employment opportunities. Support was also provided to investment-ready businesses to progress their projects to the next stage of development.

REMPPLAN, Economic Research and Analysis

RDA Far North has an annual subscription to REMPLAN, an economic modelling tool. This tool is used for both economic analysis and general demographic information. Information has been provided to councils on a quarterly basis.

The RDA Far North team also used REMPLAN to undertake detailed economic research and impact analysis for several individual projects throughout the year. The tool has been helpful for economic analysis research in support of grant applications. It has greatly assisted applicants to understand the economic value and impact of their regional projects.

Economic Growth and Investment Strategies

There are five Economic Growth and Investment Strategies covering the four council regions and the Outback Communities Authority. Significant work by the RDA Far North team has been done throughout the year on the common themes across these strategies. This included work towards these strategies:

- Support the development of the region's visitor economy
- Articulate and address strategic infrastructure priorities
- Support the development of sustainable communities

Investment and Attraction Strategy

RDA Far North instigated the development of an Investment and Attraction Strategy for Port Augusta. This included facilitating a meeting to obtain support, and the development of a scope of works for the project. A \$150,000 funding application was submitted to BHP's Local Buying Foundation. RDA Far North have allocated \$20,000 in-kind towards the project. Further funding from Port Augusta Business Centre (\$50,000) and \$10,000 in-kind from Port Augusta City Council has also been secured. The remaining \$70,000 will be sought from governments and other funding options.

6.2 STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

During the 2022/2023 financial year, RDA Far North's focus in this area was to identify strategic infrastructure requiring investment with a focus on connectivity across the Far North further opening the region to industry, tourism, and business.

Infrastructure Database

RDA Far North's Economic Development Manager created an infrastructure database for the region. As at 30 June 2023, the database listed 56 projects within Far North SA and an additional three projects not located in, but important to, the region. A detailed review of this list and prioritisation process is planned for the next financial year.

Thriving Regions Fund – Enabling Infrastructure Program

PIRSA released the call for expressions of interest for this program during the financial year. RDA Far North will play a role in reviewing and prioritising these against local priorities.

Northern Water Supply Project

This project is key for the region's mining industry. RDA Far North have been actively involved in supporting this project both in the very early stages of stakeholder consultation and throughout providing advice on the project. Both RDA Far North's CEO and Economic Development Manager regularly attended stakeholder meetings and provided regional intelligence about challenges and opportunities. Advice to date has included a review and update of the stakeholder consultation listing, areas of community sensitivity, additional project add-ons and additional industries that could benefit from this project.

The RDA Far North team also facilitated a presentation from Infrastructure SA (ISA) to key stakeholders about the project. RDA also continues to advocate for Far North SA communities to be included and connected so they can access this important infrastructure.

Truck Washdown Facility

Another key project the RDA Far North team have been working on this past year is the truck washdown facility planned for Port Augusta. Pastoralists in the Far North SA region recognised the need for livestock trucks to be washed before entering properties to collect livestock. Currently the nearest facility is near Dublin, a more than 500km return trip, and a significant additional cost for transport. Northern Territory Local Government has prioritised this project from a biosecurity perspective across the border. Port Augusta City Council is also supportive of a facility being established in their area. RDA Far North have been working with both pastoralists and representatives from local government in both states and Livestock SA to move the project forward.

Outback Roads Action Group Involvement

RDA Far North's CEO is an active member of the Outback Roads Action Group, meeting on a bi-annual basis. This group works with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and other key regional stakeholders to provide advice and assistance. A key function of the group is to help prioritise the Department's maintenance schedule for roads across the region. Advice is also provided on any new infrastructure needs that are identified.

SA Government Electric Vehicle Charging Rollout

During 2022/23, RDA Far North worked closely with the RAA who are working on the SA Government's electric vehicle charging rollout. This has included reviewing locations for charging stations within the Far North region. There are 140 sites across regional SA and 17 within Far North SA.

Assistance to NBN Co

RDA Far North continued to engage with NBN Co to discuss services in the region.

NBN Survey

RDA Far North providing input into the NBN Business Stakeholder Survey.

6.3 BUSINESS CAPACITY BUILDING

RDA Far North focused on supporting private investment by local and regional businesses, and attraction of new industries and businesses addressing market gaps, as well as harnessing the visitor economy through the promotion of the region.

Business Support Services

RDA continued to provide a responsive and practical business support service across the region. One-on-one business advisory services were provided to 607 small and medium enterprises across the Far North region. Advice and assistance varied and was tailored to each enterprise, but included:

- General business health checks
- Identification of growth prospects and diversification opportunities
- Feasibility studies
- Connecting businesses to new potential business partnerships
- Assistance with grants and funding opportunities
- Advice about insurance assessments
- Business and workforce planning
- Marketing and branding
- Staff recruitment and retention strategies
- Upskilling of staff
- Accounting and bookkeeping
- Strategic planning
- Business data
- ABN registrations
- Billing processes

Business advisory services have assisted in providing RDA Far North with an informed understanding of the skills of business operators across the region. It has also helped to identify gaps where training may be required.

Distribution of Business Information and Opportunities

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

- Funding opportunities to relevant clients
- Labour market information
- LMP regional updates
- ATO small business newsroom information updates
- Business.gov.au news and events
- State Government Women in Business Program
- Consumer and Business Services updates
- Relevant information from the Business, Industry and Regional Outreach (BIRO) newsletter
- Small Business Energy Relief Plan information
- First Nations Tourism Mentoring Program information
- E-introduction to ATO e-invoicing
- Information about the Adelaide Business Hub business building workshop program
- Austrade export fundamentals information from the Trade Advisor
- Austrade National Visitor Economy updates
- Tourism Research Australia monthly snapshot and forecast report
- NBN Co announcement information
- Fair Work factsheets
- Reminders about the Director ID registration deadline
- National Reconstruction Fund survey from Infrastructure Australia
- Budget business highlights and regional impacts

Review of Businesses

During the financial year, the Business Development Manager worked on a review of businesses across the region. Programs are being specifically designed to enable upskilling of businesses in areas critical to their success.

BHP's Local Buying Foundation Advisory Committee

RDA Far North actively participated in this committee to review and recommend project applications from local businesses that help to build the business community. The team also helped to promote the Committee's grant rounds and funding opportunities.

Support to Chamber of Commerce Organisations and Business Groups

Throughout 2022/23, RDA Far North continued to provide support to Chamber of Commerce organisations and business groups across the Far North SA region.

The following organisations received substantial assistance during the financial year:

Business Port Augusta

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager was an observing member of the Board. He attended all meetings to provide updates on programs and services available to businesses.

Quorn Business Group

The Business Development Manager continued to be an active member and regularly attended meetings. He also facilitated planning sessions and arranged key speakers for meetings.

Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association

The Business Development Manager was an active observer throughout the year. He provided significant support for annual planning, funding applications, work with Council, and the rolling out of projects.

Roxby Downs Business Forum

The Business Development Manager continued to be an active member of this group, participating in planning sessions, event coordination, workshops and working with Council.

Leigh Creek Progress Association (LCPA)

The Business Development Manager was active in assisting the Progress Association in planning its future operations and the role they would like to play for the town of Leigh Creek.

The Business Development Manager also attended the Leigh Creek Task Force meetings and the Leigh Creek Action Group.

Assistance with Grants and Funding Opportunities

The RDA Far North team continued to work with businesses to identify relevant funding opportunities.

The team monitored all available funding opportunities, and various grants were promoted during 2022/23, including:

- Sport and Recreation Active State Program funding
- Sport and Recreation Facilities funding
- Future Drought Fund – Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Grants
- NBN Co Innovation Grants Program
- Thriving Communities Fund
- Thriving Regions Fund – Enabling Infrastructure Program
- Growing Regions Fund
- State Government Music Development Officer E-Voucher Initiative
- Federal Government Energy Efficiency Grants for SMEs
- Telstra Connected Communities Grants
- Multicultural Grants Program
- SA Tourism Commission Experience Nature Tourism Fund
- NIAA Tourism Grants for Indigenous Businesses
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal grants
- NAIDOC Week Grants
- Critical Minerals Development Program
- Regional Event Fund
- QANTAS Grants
- Expand Together Grants
- Local Buying Foundation Grants
- Austrade Caravan Park Infrastructure Grant

RDA Far North assisted with 53 grant applications during 2022/23. Support was varied, and included collecting information, writing letters of support, seeking other letters of support and/or quotes, developing project plans and briefs, developing budgets and risk management plans, compiling information, and writing applications. As there was a change in government for both the State Government and Federal Government, grant availability was less than in previous years.

RDA Far North regularly monitors Grant Connect and provides grant information to businesses across the region. A list of priority projects for the region continues to be maintained so that projects can be matched with available grants where possible.

National Indigenous Australians Agency

(NIAA) Indigenous Business Incubator Project

Work with the NIAA has continued throughout the year. RDA Far North has assisted businesses that are part of the program to grow their ideas from concept to reality. The Business Development Manager presented at an Indigenous Business Incubator Project on 7 November 22. The RDA Far North team has provided information about funding opportunities to several Indigenous start-ups and connected businesses with the program.

Business Workshops

Eleven workshops were held during the 2022/23 financial year, with 129 businesses attending. This included:

- One Indigenous Business Incubator Program Workshop in Coober Pedy with 12 businesses in attendance.
- Four Launch Your Own Business Workshops – Two held in Port Augusta and two in Roxby Downs with a total of 22 businesses attending. These workshops were funded through the Local Buying Foundation.
- Two Adelaide Business Hub Business Building Online Workshops with a total of 21 attendees.
- Two Recruit and Retain Staff workshops held – One in Roxby Downs and one in Hawker, with a total of 18 businesses attending.
- Two social media workshops, both held in Port Augusta with 56 attendees in total.

First Nations Women in Business Event

RDA Far North helped promote the First Nations Women in Business event held in Port Augusta 21 June 2023. This event was an initiative of the State Government Women in Business Program.

Resilient Ready Program

RDA Far North's Business Development Manager participated in a local working group for the Resilient Ready Program. Fifteen modules were developed to assist small business with a Business Community Resilience toolkit for the Upper Spencer Gulf Region. The toolkit was launched in Port Augusta 20 June 2023. A workshop is planned for September 2023.

Small Business Fundamentals Program

RDA Far North submitted an application for the Small Business Fundamentals Program which was successful. This program will work with 40 businesses across the region, 20 of those Indigenous, to develop business plans to enable business growth.

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:

- Approximately 11% of the Local Contact Officer funding received by SATC is provided to RDA Yorke and Mid North to cover the Southern Flinders areas of the Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism region.
- Ensuring regional tourism operators were kept completely 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.
- Distribution of information about grants and funding assistance available, including the Regional Event Tourism Fund and the Experience Nature Tourism Fund.
- 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), RDA Yorke and Mid North, SSSA, 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.
- Assisted FRO with marketing content approval for WOOF Media Feels Good Out Here campaign for the Flinders Ranges and Outback Facebook page and website.
- Promoted SATC industry sessions assisting operators through 2022/23
- Several meetings were held with tourism operators, businesses, and community groups, including visits to Quorn, Hawker, Wilpena Pound, Coober Pedy, Leigh Creek, Marree, Copley, Beltana, Parachilna, and Blinman,
- Representing regional tourism at various events, including the grand opening of Nilpena Ediacara National Park.
- Assisted with SATC product development enquiries and provided referrals and introductions where required.

Assistance with Tourism-related Funding Applications

The Tourism and Marketing Manager provided assistance with Flinders Ranges and Outback Experience Nature Tourism Fund applications. Letters of support were also provided for a range of other applications, including The Flinders Ranges Council's Flinders in the Fringe event.

Tourism Event Promotion

The RDA Far North team advertised regional tourism events and products across the Flinders Ranges and Outback social media pages.

Skills Development for Tourism Operators

The Tourism and Marketing Manager promoted the TiCSA workshops in the region to help raise capabilities in digital marketing. Work is also continuing with operators and industry to boost capabilities in storytelling, event management, promotion and commissionable products.

Cycle and Eco-Tourism

Cycle and eco-tourism was a new focus area during the financial year. The team worked on projects in Leigh Creek to develop cycle tourism trails.

Flinders Ranges World Heritage Bid Community Reference Group

RDA Far North continued its active membership of this group. This included ongoing communications with the community about the benefits of the Flinders Ranges World Heritage Bid. An exciting development this year was the grand opening of Nilpena Ediacara National Park, which is another outstanding product for the region.

Station Stays

Station Stays is an industry-based organisation initiated by RDA Far North as a cooperative marketing group for station stay experiences across the region. The groups meetings bi-monthly with RDA Far North staff attending in an observer capacity, providing assistance as required.

Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism

This group is a state-based marketing group for the Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism region. The group is allocated up to \$35,000 per annum in collaborative marketing funding to market the region. RDA Far North is an observer on the committee, attending all meetings and providing administration support to the Chair. Assistance is also provided to drive projects identified by the committee.

Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association

RDA Far North attends the Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association meetings in an observational capacity. It is a membership-based organisation that markets its members offerings in a collaborative way. The RDA Far North team provides support wherever needed. During the year, this included assisting with the logistics of marketing at caravan and camping shows.

Hospitality and Tourism Training

RDA Far North has been providing ongoing assistance with the Department of Education regarding Port Augusta Technical College's hospitality and tourism training and industry engagement. This will help to link the College and its students to skilled employment opportunities in the future.

RDA Far North's Tourism and Marketing Manager met with the Department of Education staff to discuss Certificate II Cookery for local students. Assistance is being provided to organise two industry immersion days in Port Augusta and Quorn.

Media Enquiries & Film Industry Support

There were several tourism-related media enquiries during the year to which the Tourism and Marketing Manager responded. This included providing updated information and content about the region, and connecting media to other relevant local organisations and businesses.

The Tourism and Marketing Manager also assisted with Mortal Combat signage in Coober Pedy, marketing the film industry in the town.

Tourism Product Development and Marketing

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager worked with 58 businesses across the region assisting with product development.

Indigenous Tourism Business Development

RDA Far North continued to work closely with the Aboriginal community on multiple Indigenous products that are in development. There are plans to deliver cultural immersive tours and new experiences, with one new business opening in the region.

Continued assistance was provided to multiple Indigenous Tourism businesses and ongoing participation in the Indigenous Business Incubator Program.

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. Overall, the Tourism Development Manager assisted 36 businesses to register. Support also extended to helping operators to build marketing materials to go on the site.

Leigh Creek Tourism

RDA Far North met with Federal and State government departments regarding the development of Leigh Creek tourism.

Yunta Visit

RDA staff attended a Yunta Town Hall Committee meeting. The Leadership Program Manager provided an update on the program. The team is looking at several other projects on behalf of the group, including assistance with business and tourism-related opportunities to boost the local visitor economy.

Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association

RDA staff attended an Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association meeting to discuss issues and opportunities. The team also met with business owners and tourism operators in the area.

Aussie Travel Code

RDA Far North's Tourism Development Manager was an active member of the Aussie Travel Code Steering Committee throughout the year. Working closely with FRO and OCA, the team continued to promote the Aussie Travel Code widely. The aim of the campaign is to encourage responsible travel in regional areas.

National Experience Content Initiative (NECI)

RDA Far North provided Tourism Australia and the South Australian Tourism Commission with NECI content delivery during the year.

Tasting Australia

The Tourism Development Manager met with Tasting Australia regarding possible events in the Flinders Ranges and Outback region.

Kati-Thanda Lake Eyre Strategic Response Plan

RDA Far North and Outback Communities Authority commissioned the Kati-Thanda Lake Eyre Flood Tourism Management Plan. The Plan was released in December 2022 after extensive community consultation in Leigh Creek, Copley, Lyndhurst, and Marree.

The plan provides recommendations for strategic, informed, and coordinated initiatives to help plan for and manage the impacts of increased visitation during flooding events.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

11

Workshops
delivered

Business support
services provided
to **607** businesses.

129

Businesses
attended workshops

Promoted **27** separate
grant and funding
programs.

Assisted **53**
businesses/organisations
with grants.

Total of grants
successful =
\$398,600

Successful grants included:

\$371,000

3 x Austrade
Caravan Parks Grant
\$371,000 in
grant funding

\$20,000

1 x SATC
Regional Event Fund
\$20,000 in
grant funding

\$7,600

1 x Stronger
Communities
\$7,600 in
grant funding

1

1 x Sports and
Recreation Fund

2

2 x BHP
Community Grant

Number of tourism businesses and developments assisted:

58

Businesses
assisting with product
development

36

Businesses
assisted to build
their marketing
materials

3

Marketing
projects
assisted

6.4 POPULATION

RDA Far North continued to support projects and initiatives that improve the liveability of the Far North region. This included working closely with local government organisations to assist them to enhance liveability within their towns. The CEO meets with each local government CEO every month to discuss projects of common purpose and strategic projects. Additionally, other staff within the RDA Far North team meet with the councils when they are travelling to their council region.

Leadership Development Program

A steering committee was formed to assist RDA Far North's Leadership Program Manager to design the program. A Gap Analysis was completed along with a review of existing and upcoming leadership programs. Based on the information gathered, the program was designed in two parts:

- Community Leadership Training – A 3-hour 'Committee Basics' training program covering governance, best practice for community meetings and agendas, and the roles and responsibilities of committee members.
- Emerging Leaders Program – A 7-day program run over six months.

Seven training providers were invited to submit a proposal, with Sarah Prime from Champions Academy being the successful contractor.

The Leadership Development Program was launched in May 2023 in Port Augusta. 45 people expressed an interest in this program. Of these, 23 participants from across the region took up the opportunity, with a further 39 students participating in a session on day two of the program.

The program had exceptional engagement levels since commencing, with participation numbers far exceeding expectations. There were some challenges with the William Creek and Oodnadatta Committee Basics workshops needing to be rescheduled due to rain. However, all the workshops were completed with 173 people participating overall. Committee Basics workshops were held in Glendambo, Roxby Downs, Andamooka, Quorn, Hawker, Marree, Leigh Creek, Port Augusta and Coober Pedy.

RDAs collectively are working together to develop a bid for ongoing funding for this successful program.

Live, Work and Play Initiative

The Live, Work, Play campaign was released in early 2022, however the campaign continued into the 2022/23 financial year. There has been a very positive response to the campaign and a high share rate on social media. Specific clips for the Flinders Ranges, Port Augusta and Outback Communities Authority (OCA) areas were promoted, as well as a generic Far North SA clip.

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.

Supply and Demand Audit of Childcare

RDA Far North contacted all services in the Flinders Ranges, Roxby Downs, and Coober Pedy Council areas to obtain an overview of the current childcare climate. RDA Far North's Committee have allocated funding to undertake a supply and demand audit of childcare across the region. This will include actionable recommendations for the next steps to be undertaken. The project will commence in the new financial year, coinciding with the release of the Royal Commission on Childcare recommendations.

RDA Far North Bursary

An RDA Far North bursary fund was established during the year. This new initiative will assist students located in Far North SA with the costs associated with study through the Port Augusta Uni Hub.

Port Augusta Uni Hub Assistance

RDA Far North assisted Uni Hub with a funding application to enable Port Augusta Uni Hub to service Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy. This application was successful. Local support is now available for students in these communities. Information has been shared about available courses and will help address skills shortages in the region.

South Australian Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub

RDA Far North continues to collaborate with the University of Adelaide, PIRSA, and the SA Research and Development Institute, in relation to the SA Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub.

Visits to Regional Communities

The RDA Far North operational team travelled more than 58,000 kilometres during the 2022/23 financial year. Staff met with stakeholders in these places:

- Port Augusta
- Quorn
- Hawker
- Coober Pedy
- Leigh Creek
- Roxby Downs
- Oodnadatta
- William Creek
- Pimba
- Glendambo
- Marree
- Woomera
- Andamooka
- Yunta
- Cockburn

REMPPLAN Economic Research and Analysis

RDA Far North has an annual subscription to REMPLAN, an economic modelling tool. This tool is used for both economic analysis and general demographic information. Information has been provided to councils on a quarterly basis.

The RDA Far North team also used REMPLAN to undertake detailed economic research and impact analysis for several individual projects throughout the year. The tool has also been helpful for economic analysis research in support of grant applications. It has greatly assisted applicants to understand the economic value and impact of their regional projects.

Regionalisation Strategic Project

RDA Far North commissioned a Regionalisation Analysis to identify the value of decentralisation to the Far North SA region. The final report and infographic have been uploaded to the RDA Far North website. A copy was also provided to The Hon. Bridget McKenzie, who was leading the previous government's decentralisation agenda. Additionally, a copy was provided to the RAI.

Economic Forum

RDA Far North facilitated an Economic Forum in Port Augusta in March 2023. There were guest speakers from the Port Playford Project, Hallett Green Cement, PAPW Alliance (Bridge), Northern Water Project, Hydrogen Hub, Electric Vehicle Network, Port Augusta City Council, and NeuRizer. The Forum was attended by 103 people.

Economic Forums will be rolled out in the remaining council areas across the Far North SA region. The topics and focus for each forum will be bespoke to each location. The next forum being planned will be in Coober Pedy in September/October 2023.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Number of meetings/planning sessions with local government:

62

Meetings
held with local
government

5

Planning sessions
held with local
government

Number of economic datasets provided to local government and industry:

12

General economic
datasets
provided to local
government

53

Project economic
impact datasets
provided to
industry

6.5 COLLABORATION

RDA Far North's focus in this area for the 2022/2023 financial year was to support collaboration with other key stakeholders, including RDA Committees across SA and Australia to share ideas and grow knowledge.

Participation in Working Groups

The RDA Far North team participated in a range of working groups to drive the roll-out of infrastructure projects. These included:

- Northern Water Project Local Stakeholder Group (met monthly)
- Northern Water Supply Community Stakeholder Reference Group
- Outback Roads Action Group (bi-annual)
- RAA Electric Vehicle Charging Network discussions
- Resilient Ready Program Local Advisory Group
- Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce Project Meetings

Attendance at Forums

The team attended several forums throughout the financial year, including:

- State/Local Government Economic Participation Forum hosted by Minister Geoff Brock in Adelaide.
- Primary Industries and Regions Forum - Transitioning to a Green Economy

Country Cabinet (September 2022)

RDA Far North participated in three roundtable meetings as part of Country Cabinet. This included two in Port Pirie and one in Port Augusta. The RDA team also facilitated a small business roundtable and a tourism roundtable in Port Augusta with the relevant Ministers for those portfolios. Two additional stakeholder meetings were held during the Country Cabinet visit to the region.

Active Role with Business Groups and Progress Associations

RDA Far North maintained an active role with all business groups and progress associations throughout the financial year. The team attended meetings and provided project support as required.

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 three dinner events with Committee Members, Council Mayors, and CEOs with a guest presenter at each. An end of year celebration event with Committee Members, OCA Chair, Council Mayors and CEOs was also held in December last year. This included a site visit to the Port Playford site. Additionally, an update was provided on the Hallett Group Project.

State Government

The RDA team participated in regular meetings with State Ministers throughout the year about important regional issues. RDA Far North also continued to actively participate in the Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) network to work towards a broader SA approach. RDSA CEO meetings were held every six weeks, with RDSA meetings held every twelve weeks. Key collaboration projects across the RDAs included:

- Developing a paper for the continuation of regional workforce services
- Regional Leadership Project
- RDSA Regional Blueprint update
- The scheduling of the RDSA Annual Forum, which will have a leadership theme
- Developing a regional showcase

The RDA Far North team distributed information about State Government grants and funding opportunities to local businesses and community organisations throughout the year.

Commonwealth Government

RDA Far North engaged with several Commonwealth Government departments throughout 2022/23. This included liaison with the NIAA about funding opportunities, particularly for start-ups and opportunities with the Indigenous Business Incubator Program.

Additionally, the RDA Far North team distributed information about Commonwealth Government grants and funding opportunities across the region.

The Regional Investment Framework (RIF) was released as part of the Australian Government's budget this year. RDA Far North's CEO provided a copy of this along with an analysis of the budget to all local government CEOs. The RIF is a key document for the Commonwealth Government and will guide how they interact with regional communities. RDAs are considered a key organisation in the delivery of this framework.

Quarterly Economic Bulletin

RDA Far North worked with RDA Yorke and Mid North and RDA Eyre Peninsula to release a combined quarterly Economic Bulletin for the three RDA regions. The release date has been modified to match the quarterly investment pipeline reports, with the first bulletin due to be released early in the 2023/24 financial year.

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, and opportunities for recovery.

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 are useful in keeping up to date with the latest industry information, opportunities and learnings from other regions across regional Australia.

Net Zero Economy Taskforce

The RDA Far North team worked closely with this taskforce that was set up to advise the Australian Government on the best ways to support regional communities as Australia transforms to a net zero economy.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Actively involved in **4** ongoing working groups

2 Business cases in progress

Total number of meetings with business groups/progress associations - **33** meetings held.



Business
Port Augusta
Meetings



Roxby
Community
Board



Coober Pedy
Business Retail and
Tourism Association



Quorn
Business
Group



Hawker Community
Development
Board



Flinders Ranges
Tourism
Group



Station
Stays
Group



Flinders Rangers
Tourism Operators
Association



Projects provided
with intensive
support



Industry
information sessions
facilitated



Major projects
provided with
intensive assistance



Gatherings of key
stakeholders



Committees and
20 meetings

7. CASE STUDIES

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

RDA Far North had the opportunity to deliver a bespoke regional leadership across the Far North region.

In designing the program, we understood that to conduct a successful leadership development programme, careful planning was required to ensure that the programme was advantageous, targeted to the communities in the area, and geographically feasible for participants to participate. To decide what we would deliver; we conducted a gap analysis across the region. The results showed that our community considered the following categories to be the most crucial:

- Accessible training - The size of the Far North makes it difficult for people to access training due to the distances travelled to attend.
- Face-to-Face delivery - With remoteness being a part of everyday life for most of the population in the Far North it is common for a lot of training to be delivered online. Delivering training in person in remote locations had additional appeal because it would give participants the chance to network with others in the area as well as develop their abilities.
- Best Practice for Committees - When engaging with key stakeholders via community consultation and survey, the biggest need for volunteers in the leadership space was around how to make sure best practice was being followed when it came to committees with training needed in the following areas.
 - How to run a successful committee meeting
 - Best practice standards for agendas, minutes, and reporting
 - Basic understanding of governance
 - How to encourage group contribution
 - How to run effective online meetings

Based on the feedback, we developed a scope to meet the above criteria and worked with the successful deliverer to create a regional "Committee Basics Training" roadshow.

Over two months, we delivered fourteen three-hour training workshops in fourteen locations across the far north region. Our team travelled over 5,000 kilometres with 191 community leaders participating in the workshops.

The program addressed the needs for accessibility, face to face training as well as providing a platform for community groups in our region to be given the tools to run effective committees and groups.

Our target audience was anyone who volunteers their time for a local committee, sporting group, council, progress association or community-based organisation. Additionally, those who were not currently on a committee or part of a community group but would like to be at some stage in the future were targeted with the training providing a great launching pad.

The content of the training provided participants with the following:

- Build their confidence, insight, and skills as a committee member.
- Communicate clearly, positively and with purpose in committee settings.
- Explore different committee types and functions.
- Understand different roles and responsibilities of committee members.
- Develop best practice committee admin, governance, and basic organisational leadership skills.

The benefits participants received were:

- 3 hours of face-to-face training.
- An invitation to take up further mentoring in a live leadership Q&A panel.
- A copy of the 'Committee Members Ultimate Survival Guide' handbook.
- A personal compendium prefilled with resources to support participants taking on future.
- committee roles; and
- A 'Community Leaders Playbook' containing additional digital resources.

In recruiting participants for the leadership training, we rolled out, we had a focus on First Nations and women as these were the two areas identified in the research. This focus resulted in 15% of participants representing First Nations people and a total of 85% female representation. For information, the Far North regions population is 25,560, with the breakdown 19% First Nations, 48% female, and 52% male.

The outcomes of the program were 294 community volunteers going back into their communities with a solid grounding on how to work effectively in a community group with increasing confidence to step into roles in the future.

INDUSTRY CLUSTER CREATION & SUPPORT

In 2008, our organisation was keen to create industry cluster groups recognising the significant economic and strategic value they can create through fostering knowledge sharing, innovation, and collaboration amongst related businesses.

We identified an emerging opportunity within the tourism industry which could gain value from creating a marketing cluster group. Following several years of drought, our pastoral industry was investigating opportunities to diversify their income and provide some relief and income into their businesses over these difficult times. Properties were starting to open their shearers quarters accommodation and building camping areas for tourists to come and stay. As this was not their core business, it was identified that creating a collaborative marketing group could be a way for them to join forces and market collectively and provide a support network for common challenges/opportunities.

In November 2009, RDA Far North facilitated the first meeting of pastoral tourism businesses in the region to discuss various challenges and how they might be able to work together. After several get togethers RDA Far North facilitated the formation of the Station Stays SA group and continued to provide executive support to the group to assist them in becoming their own sustainable organisation overtime.

Ten years from that first meeting, the cluster was able to become a standalone organisation without the need for ongoing executive officer support from RDA Far North. They became a standalone incorporated association in 2019 and continued to grow which saw the necessity in 2021, for the group to Trademarked their brand helping secure their ongoing success and protecting their brand from imitation.

Now with 26 member properties, Station Stays SA is a major cluster group within the RDA Far North region and as such provides the opportunity for many tourists to witness and experience working Stations while also experiencing how Outback people live. One of the great strengths of Station Stays SA is the range of options and experiences that are on offer under a single brand.

RDA Far North has provided support in many ways to Station Stays SA and was the main driver and initiator of the formation of the group through a nationwide Outback Business Networks (OBN) program back in 2009. 12 November 2023 will mark 14 years since the first meeting at Hawker and that the Station Stays SA group is one of only a couple of groups formed through that program that is still in existence and which continues to grow.

In writing this case study, RDA Far North acknowledges the work and passion of all members of the group. Our organisation has enjoyed assisting Station Stays SA grow and expand becoming nationally recognised as one of the great success stories of the Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism region.

This case study is provided as a great example of how RDA Far North has been able to initiate, support and nurture a group of businesses in creating an industry support network to a point they are able to operate independently and continue to grow in their success. This is an excellent demonstration of building local capacity of businesses and industry.

8. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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 5700. A 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 24 November 2023..

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 2023.

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

Linley Shine

Greg Flint

Lucy Morphet

Kerry Mudge

Scott McKay - Deputy Chair & Treasurer

Sam Johnson (term expired 29/09/2022)

Mark Fennell (term expired 29/09/2022)

Dave Petersen (term expired 29/09/2022)

Craig Cresp (term expired 29/09/2022)

Colin Davies (term expired 29/09/2022)

- b) No officer of the Association has received directly or indirectly from the Association any payment or other pecuniary value except for the reimbursement of travel 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

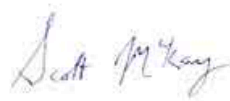
The surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities amounted to:

30/06/2022	30/06/2022
\$ 33,955	\$ (41,100)

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



CHAIRPERSON



DEPUTY CHAIR

Dated this day 24 of November 2023

In accordance with Section 35 (5) of the Associations Incorporation Act (1985), the committee hereby states that during the financial year ended 30 June 2023:

- 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

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

REVENUE	NOTE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Funding revenue	2	773,214	825,722
Interest		34,171	6,760
Project Income		310,511	215,683
Sundry Income	2	25,778	24,478
TOTAL REVENUE		1,143,674	1,072,643
EXPENSES			
Employment Expenses		683,477	717,492
Depreciation	2	3,805	2,175
Project Expenses		76,297	44,940
Other Operational Expenses	3	346,140	349,136
TOTAL EXPENSES		1,109,719	1,113,743
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		33,955	(41,100)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

CURRENT ASSETS	NOTE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,771,011	1,656,811
Trade and other receivables	6	190,980	72,289
Total Current Assets		1,961,991	1,729,100
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	4,896	8,701
Total Non Current Assets		4,896	8,701
TOTAL ASSETS		1,966,887	1,737,801
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	78,240	36,437
Accrued Wages		14,030	16,459
Amounts Received in Advance		160,883	71,694
Employee Benefits		105,698	118,682
Projects in progress	8	1,064,556	993,381
Provision for Long Service Leave		127,510	119,133
Total Current Liabilities		1,550,917	1,355,786
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,550,917	1,355,786
NET ASSETS / LIABILITIES		415,970	382,015
EQUITY			
Retained Surplus		382,015	423,115
Current Surplus / (Deficit)		33,955	(41,100)
TOTAL EQUITY	10	415,970	382,015

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2023 \$	2022 \$
Funding & other receipts	990,592	1,009,355
Payments to suppliers and employees	(910,783)	(705,504)
Interest received	34,171	6,760
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	113,980	310,611
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for Plant & Equipment	-	(7,553)
Net cash provided by / (used in) plant & equipment	-	(7,553)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	113,980	310,611
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	1,656,811	1,346,200
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	1,770,791	1,656,811

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

2 REVENUE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Funding - Regions SA	417,203	436,792
Funding - DIRD	242,940	233,590
Funding - Councils	113,071	155,340
	773,214	825,722
Sundry Income		
Misc Income	15,418	24,478
Fee For Service	10,000	-
Workcover Reimbursement	360	-
	25,778	24,478
3 OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
Includes		
Auditors Remuneration	10,375	8,650
Board Member & Meeting Expenses	29,654	26,279
Subs/Memberships/Publications	7,308	46,609
Staff Travel & Accommodation	44,037	31,269
Motor Vehicle Expenses	16,061	15,812
Rent for Premises	19,613	17,830
Others	219,092	202,687
	346,140	349,136
4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank - General	73,591	97,824
Cash at Bank - Other	774,463	656,035
Cash at Bank - Term Deposit	904,680	889,336
Expense Account	18,084	13,416
Petty Cash - Admin	193	2001
	1,771,011	1,656,811
5 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
At cost	112,241	112,241
Less Accumulated depreciation	(107,345)	(103,540)
	4,896	8,701
Movements in carrying amounts for property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.		
Balance at beginning of year	8,701	10,876
Additions	0	0
Depreciation expenses	(3,805)	(2,175)
Carrying amount at end of year	4,896	8,701

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6 TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES	2023 \$	2022 \$
Debtors	164,141	72,254
GST		
- GST Collected	12,568	8,846
- GST Paid	8,846	15,662
	190,980	72,289
7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade payables	38,240	12,391
Other creditors and accruals	40,000	24,046
	78,240	36,437
8 PROJECT IN PROGRESS		
Economic Development Manager	67,364	30,900
Tourism Development Manager	105,496	81,342
Business Development Manager	31,475	35,528
Leadership Program Manager	141,450	124,868
Opal Alliance	1,369	1,369
Outback SA Community Inc	9,538	9,538
Marketing & Investment Attractions	35,126	35,126
Workshops and Forums	35,977	37,897
Admin support	280,887	294,646
Economic/Community Development	112,605	110,553
Workforce Development	137,682	114,504
RDA Grant Fund - PIRSA	22,500	550
Economic Growth & Investments Strategy	1,633	5,633
Digital Solutions SA Program	-	9,983
Lake Eyre Economic Analysis	-	900
Strategic Projects	49,028	49,028
Regional Workforce CCP	-	25,240
Customer Relations Management	20,000	20,000
Unihub Bursary Fund	12,426	5,775
	1,064,556	993,381

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

2023 \$

2022 \$

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

Employee Remuneration contracts	848,341	1,327,305
Operating Leases	12,580	12,580
	860,921	1,339,885
These Expenditures are payable not later than one year	459,676	491,544
Later than one year & not later than 5 years	401,245	848,341
	860,921	1,339,885

10 EQUITY

Retained Surpluses(Deficits)at the beginning of the financial year	382,015	423,115
Net Surplus(Deficit) for the year	33,955	(41,100)
Retained Surpluses(Deficits)at the end of the financial year	415,970	382,015

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.

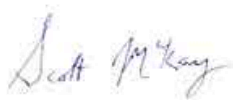
In the opinion of the committee the financial statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Regional Development Australia Far North Inc. as at 30 June 2023 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 day 24 of November 2023

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

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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 2023, the statement of profit and loss, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Regional Development Australia Far North Incorporated as at 30 June 2023, 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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Stenhouse".

Ged Stenhouse
Director

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

Adelaide, South Australia
Dated: 24 November 2023

