



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far North SA

Applicant Information Pack

RDA Far North Committee Members

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 9AM WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2026

RDA FAR NORTH

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Regional Development Australia Charter

The Albanese Government's vision for regional Australia is one of strong, connected regions that shape our economic growth and wellbeing; are resilient and responsive to economic and environmental shocks; are inclusive, vibrant, and diverse. Regions that our First Nations people have every opportunity to engage in and shape, and where people, businesses and investments thrive.

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) are critical to the delivery of this vision, including supporting the successful implementation of the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework (RIF), which will guide a more coordinated approach to regional development, underpinned by local engagement.

RDAs play a role in helping to drive economic growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship in regions through facilitating investment in community, industry, and the environment. RDAs assist to bridge the regional development gaps in regions by working with a broad range of stakeholders across sectors and supporting the delivery of identified Australian Government strategic priorities.

As representatives of their local communities, RDAs will:

- focus their activities and strategy on delivery of the RIF in their region, including investment in people, places, services, and industries and local economies.
- support regional stakeholders, including local government and the not-for-profit-sector, to seek grant opportunities that advance strategic regional priorities.
- support decarbonisation efforts and the transformation to a net zero economy and enable regional linkages between sectors to achieve these aims.
- build the evidence for economic development, including innovation and diversification strategies.
- facilitate meaningful engagement across the three levels of government to ensure investments deliver better outcomes for regions, and
- contribute relevant data and local intelligence to support the evidence base to inform regional development strategies, program design and policy responses.

RDAs use their local, cross-sector expertise and regional voice to:

- collaborate with integrity, transparency, respect, and accountability.
- engage with diverse communities, especially First Nations people.
- support the Government's ambition of 'no one held back, and no one left behind', and
- support gender equality opportunities in their regions.

Overview

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far North is a collaboration between federal, state, and local governments focused on assisting the region's economic growth and development. RDA Far North is a non-profit incorporated association administered by a committee of industry specialists from across the Far North. Our committee and operational team aim to foster relationships between governments, regional development organisations, local enterprises, community groups, and other key regional players to deliver strategic and focused responses to regional economic possibilities (and challenges).

RDA Far North encompasses a massive area of 799,850 square kilometres in northern South Australia, including sparsely inhabited land. It covers 80 percent of the state's land area and has a population of

about 26,471 people. The region is loosely defined as the territory between the Aboriginal Lands on the Western Australian border and Yunta and Cockburn in the east, as well as all areas northwards to the Queensland and Northern Territory borders.

Resources, tourism, transportation, renewable energy, defence, emerging industries, services, cuisine, and the arts all present significant prospects for economic expansion in the region. RDA Far North is dedicated to promoting this development for the benefit of the Far North community.

RDA Far North is operationally based in Port Augusta and the Committee meets eight times per financial year. To enable effective participation of Committee Members, four meetings are held via a virtual platform to bring the Committee together, and four meetings are held in Port Augusta with Members required to attend in person. There are also opportunities for face-to-face meetings on an annual basis either in Port Augusta or through regional visits.

For more information on RDA Far North please visit our website www.rdafn.com.au or contact our CEO, Claire Wiseman on 08 8641 1444. For more information on the RDA Far North Committee please contact Scott McKay, Chair of RDA Far North on chair@rdafn.com.au

Applicant Information Pack

This Applicant Information Pack provides you with the information you need to complete an application for a committee member position with RDA Far North.

This Applicant Information Pack contains the following elements:

1. Selection process description including application lodgement instructions.
2. Position description, accountabilities and responsibilities, and selection criteria.
3. Application form.

The application form can be downloaded from <http://www.rdafn.com.au/vacancies> completed electronically offline and emailed to ceo@rdafn.com.au

Selection process description

Applying for Committee member positions on the RDA Far North Committee involves completing this form and providing a brief Curriculum Vitae (CV). These documents should be returned to Claire Wiseman at ceo@rdafn.com.au. Once submitted, you should receive email confirmation that your application has been received. The application process involves the following steps and indicative timeframes:

1. **Processing of applications** – once applications close, they will be considered by the Selection Panel. This process may take up to two weeks.
2. **Referee and other checks** – The CEO will conduct referee checks, and other checks (e.g. probity checks) if required, before making a final assessment of each applicant. This process may take up to two weeks.
3. **Consultation with delegate** – once the Selection Panel has identified their preferred candidate(s), final appointment decision will be made. This may take up to six weeks.
4. **Advice to applicants** – once a final decision has been made, applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by email and/or post. This may take up to one week.

Deputy Chair Position description

The role of the Deputy Chair is to assume the role and duties of the RDA Chair, as defined below, whenever the Chair is not available. The Deputy Chair also plays an important role in supporting the Chair in day-to-day matters and has similar skills to the Chair.

The RDA Committee Chair leads a diverse group of individuals working in a complex environment to deliver high value outcomes for the state/region. The Chair is a recognised business or state/regional leader who drives economic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in regions through facilitating investment in people, places, services, and industries and local economies.

The Chair puts in place work programs which bridge regional development gaps by working with stakeholders across sectors and diverse communities (especially with First Nations people) and supporting the delivery of identified Australian Government strategic priorities.

They are very knowledgeable about the economic, social, cultural and environmental opportunities and challenges facing their state/region; well-connected and a strong advocate for their state/region; and for regional RDA Chairs, draw their regional communities together to build and drive economic growth. RDA Chairs act with integrity, transparency, respect and accountability, and champion gender equality opportunities.

The RDA Chair provides strategic direction and leadership to the RDA Committee and ensures corporate governance arrangements are effectively designed and implemented. They demonstrate strong leadership to the Committee and have a sound understanding of board or committee performance management, including people and organisational management processes.

Accountabilities and responsibilities

The RDA Deputy Chair will be accountable to:

- The Chair – for supporting the activities of the Committee
- Their regional RDAs/communities – for delivering outcomes that meet regional needs
- The funding providers – for ensuring that agreed objectives are achieved and resources invested are expended as efficiently and effectively as possible
- RDA Committee staff – for providing a safe and healthy workplace.

The RDA Deputy Chair will be responsible for supporting the RDA Committee to meet the requirements of the charter, deliver against the outcomes, reporting requirements and performance measures specified in the RDA Funding Agreement, and for the good operational and financial governance of the overall organisation.

Selection criteria

RDA Deputy Chairs are expected to be able to demonstrate a high level of:

1. **Leadership and governance** – A successful applicant will have a very high degree of experience and capability in leading organisations and be able to demonstrate a high degree of knowledge of the governance and performance management principles that apply to volunteer committees. They have most likely chaired a board or committee and/or led an organisation and achieved successful and sustainable outcomes in this role(s). They will be very familiar with the types of processes required to lead/manage a board or committee and have experience leading a group of people in a complex setting.

2. **Delivery focus** – A successful applicant will have had significant experience in actively and substantively contributing to the leadership of high performing organisations that have had success in achieving outcomes within tight deadlines and in a difficult and complex environment.
3. **Stakeholder engagement** – The applicant will have demonstrated experience in successfully managing a broad range of internal and external stakeholders in a complex environment to facilitate the achievement of very successful outcomes. They will have a high degree of experience in managing complex relationships including how to manage conflict between stakeholders.
4. **Representational skills** – A successful applicant will have had extensive experience representing regional, business and/or industry interests in a variety of forums. They can demonstrate they are recognised as a business, industry and/or regional leader and are regularly called upon to represent these groups as appropriate. They have a sound understanding of the complexities involved in representing a diverse set of people and views that typically exist within a region, business and/or industry groups and can articulate what is necessary to be successful in such a role. They will be able to demonstrate a strong track record of being collaborating with integrity, transparency, respect and accountability.
5. **Commitment to the region** – To be successful, an applicant will be expected to have a deep commitment to the region. They will have significant personal and business networks, can clearly articulate the key issues facing the region and how the RDA Committee can broker solutions to these issues. The applicant should live and may have, or have had, business interests in the region and will be a regional, industry and/or business leader. For standalone capital city RDAs, the applicant should reside in the capital city, and/or have very strong relationships with regional and capital city stakeholders.
6. **Commitment to diversity** – A successful applicant will be committed to attracting, retaining and supporting a diverse range of members and staff including First Nations people, women, people from the LGBTIQA+ community, people with disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. They will have demonstrated experience in fostering successful and respectful relationships with diverse communities, especially First Nations people, and supporting gender equality opportunities.
7. **Specific Skills Set** – To complement the existing skillset of the RDA Far North Committee, applicants with a background/strong knowledge in regional liveability, digital transformation and future industries.

Committee Member Position description

RDA Far North Committee Members are active in their community and contribute to supporting regional growth. Members are required to support the Chair and be knowledgeable about the economic, social, cultural, and environmental opportunities and challenges facing the Far North region; be well connected and an advocate for their community; and expected to leverage existing networks and develop new networks across industry sectors to assist them in their role as a member.

Committee Members work as an effective member of the RDA Far North Committee toward the economic development for the region. They actively support Committee governance and management processes.

Accountabilities and responsibilities

RDA Committee members will be accountable to:

- The Chair – for supporting the activities of the Committee.
- RDA Committee Operation Team – for providing a safe and healthy workplace.

- Their communities – for delivering outcomes that meet regional needs.
- The funding providers – for ensuring that agreed objectives are achieved and resources invested are expended as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Members will be responsible for supporting the RDA Committee to meet the requirements of the charter, deliver against the outcomes, reporting requirements and performance measures specified in Funding Agreements which enable the operations of RDA Far North, and for the good operational and financial governance of the overall organisation.

Selection criteria

1. **Governance** – A successful applicant will have experience and can demonstrate an understanding of the governance and performance management principles that apply. They will be familiar with the types of governance processes required to be an active member of a board or committee and have demonstrated experience.
2. **Delivery focus** – A successful applicant has most likely had experience in organisations that have had success in achieving difficult outcomes in a complex environment.
3. **Business acumen** – A successful applicant will have a history in being involved in successful organisational decisions and being able to recognise and seize business opportunities. The applicant has most likely had a career working in successful ventures that may be focussed on one industry or in a public sector or not-for-profit organisation. The applicant has functioned as a leader in some capacity in the roles they have had and been successful in these roles.
4. **Stakeholder engagement** – To be successful an applicant may have had experience managing a broad range of stakeholders to achieve successful outcomes.
5. **Representational skills** – A successful applicant has most likely had experience representing either their region, business and/or industry. They understand the complexities in representing a diverse group such as a region, business and/or industry.
6. **Commitment to the region** – To be successful, the applicant will have a clear commitment to the Far North region and have strong personal and business networks enabling an in-depth understand and be able to articulate the opportunities and challenges facing the region. Preference will be given to applicants who reside in the Far North region who have spent substantial time in the region and be a very active member of the community. Members are required to attend meetings and represent RDA Far North with a non-parochial perspective, ensuring that their focus is on the Far North region rather than their own backyard.
7. **Specific Skills Set** – To complement the existing skillset of the RDA Far North Committee, applicants with a background/strong knowledge in regional liveability, digital transformation and future industries.