

SEGRA Conference



Coffs Harbour, NSW
16-18 October 2013

- Regional Development Colloquium

- ROB KERIN

- Chairman

- Regional Development South Australia

1st Session

- Federalism - an asset or barrier for Regional Economic development?
- Will consider best practice models to advance Regional Australia through the alignment of government policies and practice in on ground delivery of economic development.

- Regional Development
- It is about delivering to the Regions
- It is about delivering jobs and economic and social development to the people who live in the regions

- Traditionally has suffered from lack of good structure - too much about the agendas of the 3 levels of Government
- Duplication, waste, lack of co-ordination
- My opinion - has failed to deliver to the extent to which it should have
- Not enough about Localism
- Ministerial Council experience

- Regional people will be best served if all \$\$'s and effort of the 3 levels are co-ordinated and aimed at outcomes
- 3 levels of Government all have very important roles
- It is a long way from Canberra to Ceduna
- Hence structure is absolutely vital
- Structure must involve the 3 levels - should not be just devolved locally

- Traditional structures need to be challenged and modernised
- Structures must better serve regional people
- My experiences
 - Closure of SA Farmers Federation
 - Restructure of SA Grain Handling system

Regional Development in South Australia



A unique partnership between
the 3 Levels of Government

Background

- History of Regional Development Boards
 - 13 Boards pre - RDA
 - These were State - Local Govt Partnership
 - 4 Federal Area Consultative Committees
 - Clients confused

Opportunity

- Creation of RDA offered opportunity to bring the 3 levels of Government together
- Impediments
 - - Required Boards to agree to new boundaries (13 Boards to 7)
 - - Required agreement of the Local Councils

Need for True Partnership

- The “hiccup”
- Central Government not acknowledging the true importance of Local Government
- Too dictatorial
- True partnership needed
- The “too hard” issue
- True Localism

The Transition

- Transition team of Myself as Chair, Federal, State, LGA and Regional LG representatives.
- Negotiations with the 13 Boards and all Regional Local Government.
- Agreements reached on way ahead.
- 7 regional RDA formalised in an MOU between Federal, State Governments and L.G.A. On behalf of 57 Local Councils

Local Government

- Local Government a key partner
- Many had been instrumental in formation of RDB's in 1980's.
- Traditionally strong funding contribution and co-operation.
- Strong Board presence on RDB's.
- Negotiated Board positions on RDA as all Regional Councils agreed to contribute.

RDA Presence

- 7 Regional RDA plus Adelaide Metro.
- 13 Regional Offices (1-3 per RDA)
- Good coverage of Regional S.A.

Regional S.A. Population

- Sparse compared to Eastern States
- Lack of Cities over 20,000 people
- Difficult to service – distance and population density
- RDA's have historically evolved around servicing the regional community
- 13 offices and around 100 staff located to cover Regional S.A.

Funding

Federal - as per all RDA's

State - Were the major funders but new deal as per last July - hopefully will be restored

Local Government - varies, but between 25% and 40% of the total funding

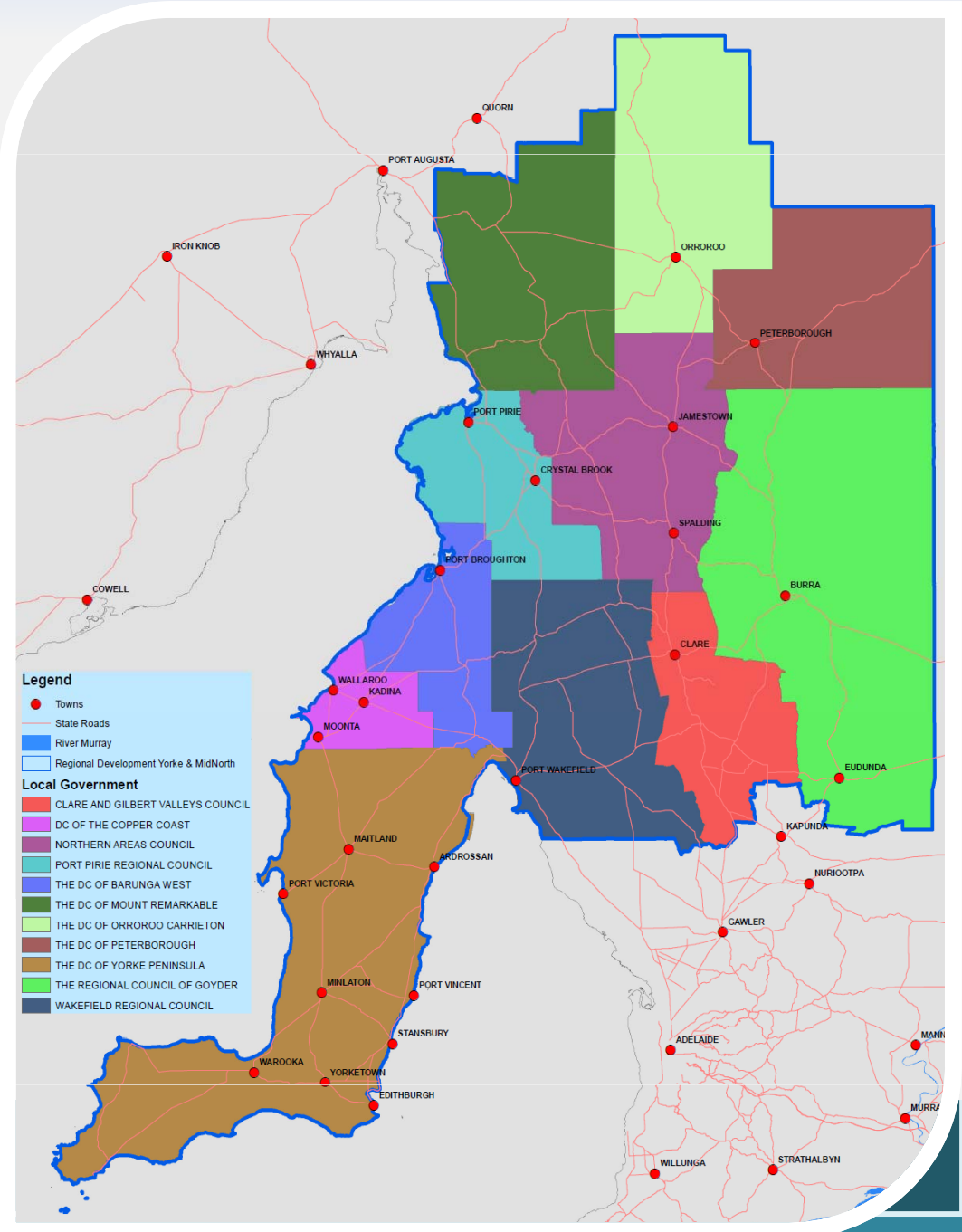
Staffing Example

- RDA Yorke and Mid North
- CEO
- Economic Development Officers x 3
- Community Development Officers x 2
- Workforce Development Officer x 3
- Tourism Development Officer
- Tourism Project Officer
- Corporate Unit x 3

Total = 14 Staff Members

Our Region

- ❖ The Yorke and Mid North region encompasses 11 local government regions
- ❖ Collective population of 77,259 representing 2.9% of South Australia's population



RDA Links to Federal Departments

- DRALGAS
- DEEWR
- FHCSIA
- Ausindustry
- Australian Taxation Office
- ACCC
- Austrade
- Dept of Immigration and Citizenship

RDA links to S.A. Govt. Depts.

- Primary Industries and Regions
- Housing SA
- Further Education Employment Science and Technology
- Planning Transport and Infrastructure
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Tourism Commission
- Immigration SA
- Manufacturing Industry and Trade
- Recreation and Sport
- Country Health
- Education and Childhood Development

Combined KPI's 09/10 +10/11

- Investment
- Businesses assisted 2870
- Business contacts 6581
- Investment facilitated \$450m
- Businesses assisted to participate in major projects 72
- Value of local content of above \$123m

Combined KPI's

- SKILLS

- Skills programs identified 144
- Participants in Skills SA 3442
- Employment outcomes 1213
- Hrs accredited training delivered 182,073

Combined KPI's 09/10 + 10/11

- Number of FTE jobs created 1355
- Exporters assisted 315
- Businesses assisted with new product 93
- Businesses assisted with new process 170

Advantages of the Model

- Critical Mass
- Gives Government partners access to experienced staff who know their Region
A local presence for Government partners
- Provides a vehicle for delivery of broad range of services in Regions
- Provides good coverage of Regional S.A.

Regional Development SA

- An Incorporated Body
- Members are the 7 Regional RDA's and Metro Adelaide RDA
- Chairs and CEO's meet at least 4 times a year
- CEO's meet at least 8 times a year
- Annual Conference held - this year a 2 day focus on Regional Infrastructure

Benefits

- Information Sharing
- Resource sharing
- Joint briefings with Federal and State officials and other stake holders
- Joint voice to Federal and State Govt.
- Joint commissioning of Reports and consultancy work
- Extends beyond lines on maps

Metro Adelaide RDA

- Has become an integral member
- Has helped co-ordinate “like” projects across RDA’s
- Patient Village to help fight against Leukemia - for regional people
- Intermodal Freight Terminal
- Energy storage project - co-ordinating with RDA’s in and beyond SA

2nd Session

- Evidence from the Front line : what works for practitioners?
- Case Study
- A Place Based Approach
- Upper Spencer Gulf Strategy for Regional Transformation

Upper Spencer Gulf Strategy

- 3 cities with economies at risk due to concentration of a few industries
- Key industries under threat
- Enormous potential opportunities from Mining “boom” and renewable energy
- Need to build capacity to capitalise on those opportunities
- 3 Local councils and in 3 RDA's

The Cities

- Whyalla, population 22,000, steelmaker Arium employs 2890, it is a heavy industry and transport hub
- Port Augusta, population 14,000, coal fired power stations and transport hub
- Port Pirie, population 1300, major employer is Nyrstar lead and zinc smelter built in 1889

Intergovernmental Partnerships

- Commonwealth, SA Government and LGA on behalf of Councils signed an MOU on 25 September, 2012
- MOU is fostering the economic and broader development of the USG
- MOU provides the opportunity to support greater levels of co-ordinated activity in the Upper Spencer Gulf

Governance

- MOU established 3 bodies
- Upper Spencer Gulf Alliance - Commonwealth and State Ministers, LGA President and the 3 Mayors
- USG Working Group - Officials of the 3 levels of Government, RDA's and myself.
- Supporting Commonwealth and State Departmental Reference Groups

USG Working Group

- Action plans developed, progressed and updated
- Balances key existing initiatives with emerging projects
- Prioritised by the working group
- A work in progress changing daily as new information comes to hand

What has worked in USG

- Local communities encouraged to think regionally and act co-operatively
- The building of a common vision
- Local Focus and involvement of key stakeholders in the decision making bodies.
- Role of RDA's in co-ordinating
- Work plans holding parties accountable

Local Priority Setting

- Too often the regions throw a stack of funding asks at Canberra and expect them to be able to choose the projects which will achieve best R.D. Outcome!
- **USG strategy prioritised and distilled the asks to really address the major needs**
- Credit to Council CEO's – overcame parochialism and got results

Key Messages

- Fostering local support, engagement and co-operation is critical - **co-operation NOT competition**
- Working together allows Regions to decide and communicate priorities
- RDA's have a critical role in fostering co-operation and providing co-ordination at the local and regional level

Remember

- Regional Development is not something that Governments do to the Regions
- Regional Development has got to be a shared goal!!
- Do our current structures achieve the best outcomes?????

- THANK YOU