

RDA SYDNEY MOVES INTO A NEW PHASE – FOLLOWING FUNDING CUTS AND RESTRUCTURING.

Following a recent review by the Federal government and reallocation of state and territory funding, RDA's around the country now have a different structure and role going forward. In particular RDA Sydney's funding has been significantly reduced and its Executive Officer, Bob Germaine will be moving on to other things.

In announcing the changes, RDA Sydney Chair, Dr Rob Lang said "RDA Committees will continue to have an active and facilitative role in their communities and a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment."

RDA Sydney will continue to work with industry and all levels of government to:

- Identify opportunities for economic development to leverage private and public-sector investments.
- Explore opportunities to grow local jobs by connecting with industry sectors, international trade partners, financial markets, regional entrepreneurs and business leaders for investments.
- Maintain and further develop positive working relationships with the local government bodies.

With respect to its many project partners and community stakeholders, Dr Lang said: "I want to thank you for your longstanding support and interest in RDA Sydney over the past 8 years."

"The RDA Committee has been very active in encouraging, coordinating and contributing to the economic development of the whole of Sydney region, including supporting work that has benefitted local, state and federal government as well as many of our stakeholders and project partners."

"Without the trust and respect of our stakeholders and partners we would not have been able to achieve the success we have had. I have no doubt that RDA Sydney will continue to do great work in this space, albeit with a more focussed role on employment opportunities."

Dr Lang would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Germaine, Executive Officer, for his outstanding service. "It is with great regret that Bob is leaving us after many many years of loyal service to RDA Sydney and its predecessor organisations."

"He has done an outstanding job in advancing the economic development of Sydney, creating opportunity for industry and job growth, providing leadership and coordination of many infrastructure projects and being a catalyst for improvement particularly in Western Sydney."

Media Release

“Our aim is to have a viable and effective RDA Sydney going forward that will be a positive force in the future development of Sydney, and to do that we will need to refocus our attention and our scope to those areas where we can make the most impact.”

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Editorial Notes

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a partnership between the Australian, State, Territory and Local Governments to support the growth and development of Australia’s regions. RDA was an outcome from a Council of Australian Government’s initiative to merge the activities of the previous national Area Consultative Committees with the state regional development boards.

The role of RDA committees is to build partnerships between governments, regional development organisations, local businesses, community groups and key regional stakeholders to provide strategic and targeted responses to economic, environmental and social issues affecting the regions of Australia.

This RDA initiative is being delivered through a national network of 55 committees and we are the Regional Development Australia Committee for Metropolitan Sydney. For more information visit the website www.rdasydney.org.au