

Quarterly Report to the Region

April to June 2020



**Regional
Development**
Australia

ILLAWARRA



Projects

- Deliver the Leadership Illawarra Program**
- Wollongong City Deal Collaborative is strengthened, and Federal Government announces Wollongong City Deal**
- Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Project (WSEC re-development) – Venues NSW ISEP Project progresses to Business Case**
- Regional Skilled Migration program implemented in Illawarra Region to address skill shortages**
- Start a Regional Renaissance**

Activities

- Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions
- Support Investment Attraction activities to grow private sector investment in the Illawarra region
- Support Government Programs through promoting grant opportunities and supporting community organisations with proposals
- Undertake a watching brief on critical issues and risks, especially those of importance to the Illawarra region's sustainability
- Provide evidence-based advice to Government on critical regional development issues

Our Business Plan on a Page was launched in July 2019 which highlights our top 5 projects for this financial year, along with our activities and strategic priorities.

RDA Illawarra's Overarching Strategy can be found on our [website](#)

RDA Illawarra

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TOP 5 ACTIVITIES

1. Advocated for shovel-ready infrastructure projects
2. Supported Destination Wollongong's Visitor Economy Support Program
3. Developed COVID-19 Illawarra Regional Economic Recovery Plan
4. Regional Certifying Body for Skilled Migration Program
5. Leadership Illawarra Program goes Virtual



Advocated for shovel-ready infrastructure projects

Activity: Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions

RDA Illawarra has strongly advocated for shovel-ready infrastructure projects for our region, working with local governments as well as the private sector.

From major capital investments through to small community infrastructure projects, we have brought together regional stakeholders and advocated to governments to support investments.

We also developed a shovel-ready assessment methodology in consultation with regional stakeholders, presenting three different options to the federal government for consideration.

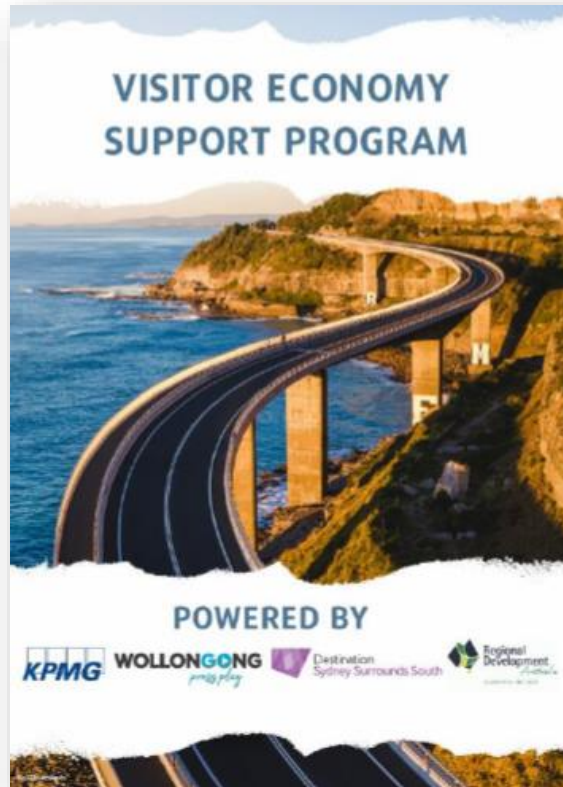




Supported Destination Wollongong's Visitor Economy Program



Activity: Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions



RDA Illawarra supported Destination Wollongong's Visitor Economy Support Program

The tourism sector was just starting to recover post Bushfires and was then hit with COVID-19. This left them significantly disadvantaged and many in the visitor economy are small and micro businesses.

We worked with Destination Wollongong, KPMG and Destination Sydney South Surrounds to support the development of a tailored program to help tourism-affected businesses with financial and marketing expertise to aid their recovery.

This program is currently being delivered to tourism-related businesses in the Wollongong LGA.

The Visitor Economy Support Program has been designed to offer immediate, practical assistance to local small businesses.



Developed a COVID-19 Illawarra Regional Economic Recovery Plan

Activity: Evidence-based intelligence to Government

We have developed a COVID-19 Illawarra Regional Economic Regional Recovery Plan. Working in collaboration with Illawarra industry, peak bodies, local governments, ISJO and the Illawarra Regional Recovery Task Force. This plan is strongly evidence-based on data however the analysis is being done in a highly volatile economic and COVID-19 health context.

This long-term regional plan approaches our recovery over three stages, Rescue, Recovery and Renaissance, and is an iterative/living plan which aims to address the differing challenges we face in the Illawarra region. We have provided the draft plan to The Hon Nola Marino, Assistant Minister for Regional Development Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories.

Minister Marino has commended RDA Illawarra and thanked the board and team, led by Chair Eddy de Gabriele, for our engagement with businesses and all levels of Government as vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

Media Release

COVID-19 Assistance

- [My Business Health](#)
- [Small Business Funding](#)
- [Export Assistance Grant Program](#)
- [JobMaker Plan for the Creative Economy](#)
- [Smart Traveler](#)

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I want to thank the RDA Illawarra board members and staff for their work in driving positive change in your local communities.

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Leadership
Illawarra
Program

Regional Certifying Body for Skilled Migration Program



Activity: Evidence-based intelligence to Government



RDA Illawarra is now the Regional Certifying Body RCB for the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (SESR) (Provisional) (subclass 494) for the Illawarra region. The Program assists employers in regional and low population growth areas of Australia where they have been unable to fill vacant positions with Australian citizens or permanent residents living in or wishing to move to the Illawarra region where the nominated position is located.

For more information on the Program and eligibility, visit the RDA Illawarra [website](#) or [Department of Home Affairs](#).

All enquires can be directed to migration@rdailawarra.com.au.

The role of a RCB is to provide advice to the Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) on the SESR visa, ES stream nomination applications, using local area knowledge to advise on whether the nominee for the position will be paid at least the annual market salary rate for the occupation.



Leadership Illawarra Program goes Virtual



UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Activity: Leverage a collaborative regional and inter-regional culture and work together on innovative solutions

The Leadership Illawarra Program cohort has remained fully engaged during the April-June period with all meetings and events taking place virtually.

Mentoring was seen as vital, especially in the COVID-19 environment. The 2020 mentoring program has commenced and will be delivered between May and September.

Thanks to all our mentors for generously giving their time and supporting the LIP participants.



We have received a lot of interest for the 2020-2022 intake of the Leadership Illawarra Program. Stay connected via all our platforms, including social media, for further information, or visit the Leadership Illawarra Program [website](#).



RDA Illawarra is now on YouTube

Keep abreast of the latest news and interviews via our social media platforms, including our recently launched **YouTube** Channel

RECENT RELEASES:

- [RDA Illawarra – Who we are and what we do](#)
- [Eddy de Gabriele – Chair, RDA Illawarra](#)
- [Joanna Kubota – Deputy Chair, RDA Illawarra](#)
- [Stephen Jones MP – Member for Whitlam](#)
- [Sharon Bird MP – Member for Cunningham](#)
- [Daniel Rowan – Chair, Leadership Illawarra Program](#)



RDA Illawarra Board

More information on the RDA Illawarra Board members can be found [here](#).

If you have any feedback or insights, please contact us here:

email: admin@rdailawarra.com.au
phone: 02 4258 3610
website: www.rdailawarra.com.au



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ILLAWARRA



Linda Davis (Director Director Planning and Environment, Wollongong Council), *Jessica De Angelis* (Director Corporate Governance & Strategy – Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District), *Eddy De Gabriele* (Self Employed), *Greg Doyle* (General Manager – Wollongong City Council), *Joanna Kubota* (Self Employed – Global Solutions Strategies), *Trish McClure* (Director Rural and Regional Planning and Development – TfNSW), *Carey McIntyre* (General Manager – Shellharbour City Council), *Craig Osborne* (Managing Partner – RMB Lawyers), *Mark Roberts* (Senior Manager Strategic Projects – UOW), *Daniel Rowan* (Managing Director – Internetrix), *Mark Sleigh* (General Manager – Destination Wollongong), *Nicky Sloan* (CEO – Community Industry Group), *Milco Stojanoski* (Manager Operations Excellence – BlueScope), *Paul Wellings CBE* (Vice Chancellor, UOW).