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RDA welcomes new Committee Members



Last month RDA Brisbane welcomed two new members to the Committee: Town Planner David Hansen and Economist Dr Petra Behrens, pictured above with Chair John Shepley (left).

David is a Director of Gassman Development Perspectives, a multidisciplinary consulting firm with offices in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. With over 14 years' experience as a planner with various local governments and consulting firms throughout Queensland, David has been involved in numerous major projects including large scale industrial and extractive industry operations, public utility infrastructure, land subdivisions, urban infill and mixed use developments.

Petra is an economist with broad knowledge and experience in a diverse range of disciplines covering many aspects of regional development and economics. Over the past years she has worked in consulting, providing economic and financial advice to private and government clients. She has developed and implemented regional development strategies as well as undertaking extensive academic research in regional economics and policy.

These appointments return the RDA Brisbane Committee to its full complement of 10 members. Profiles for all members can be found at www.rdabrisbane.org.au

Project Officer joins RDA Brisbane staff

Jacinta Wallenhoffer is RDA Brisbane's new Project Officer.

Jacinta has previously worked for the Brisbane and Logan City Councils and the Victorian State Government, and has strong experience in community consultation, liaison, data analysis and reporting. Contact Jacinta on (07) 3247 6292 or jacinta@rdabrisbane.org.au



Workforce Futures Forum leads to action

The RDA's recent South-West Brisbane Workforce Futures Forum has already paid dividends, leading to two further roundtables to tackle social problems in the Inala area, some "on the ground" outcomes for students at the Forest Lake and Glenala High Schools, and increased interagency cooperation.

The forum, held in March, aimed to better align education and training in Brisbane's south-west with the needs of local business and industry. It also explored ways to improve learning and earning pathways for young people aged 16 to 24, with The Smith Family Partnership Brokers playing a key role in facilitating workshop groups in this area.

As a direct result of needs and issues identified at the forum, two further events to address underlying social problems amongst youth and their families in the Inala area were organised by the RDA in partnership with the Queensland Police Service.

The first, a government agency roundtable themed 'The Inala Community - working smarter with unified leadership' was held in May and attracted 50 local managers. They examined in detail what services are currently provided, where the gaps and duplications occur, and how these could be resolved.

The second event, 'SEIFA* - getting Inala off the map', targeted regional heads and CEOs of non-government and not-for-profit organisations operating in the Inala community. These included employment and disability services, charities and other community service providers. With around 80 community and government representatives attending, the event provided a unique opportunity to discuss issues such as truancy, recidivism

*Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas. The title refers to Inala being mapped as an area of high socio-economic disadvantage.

in crime, violence, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and suicide, and how representatives could work more closely with police, government and each other to help address some of these problems.

Other outcomes flowing from the Workforce Futures Forum include:

Forum goals

- Better align education and training with the workforce development and skill needs of local business/industry
- Improve earning and learning pathways for young people aged 16 to 24.

- The Queensland Lions Football Club will increase their work experience intake to include an 20 extra students from Forest Lake State High School. The club will also explore access for Active Volunteering students in the sports industry. (Active Volunteering is a nationally accredited course.)

- As a pilot trial, a YACCA youth worker is providing coaching and mentoring to 10 students in year 11

at Glenala State High School who are at high risk of disengaging.

- Both schools have agreed to explore health pathways as a priority industry cluster/school cluster prototype.
- 68 forum participants have agreed to remain part of the communication network to explore next practical action steps in the south-west region.

A full report on forum discussions, recommendations and outcomes will be available to download from the RDA website shortly.

Below: The forum attracted more than 140 representatives from schools, training providers, employment service providers, community organisations and government.



"I just wanted to congratulate [the RDA] on what a great job you did with bringing together the vast range of stakeholders for the [Workforce Futures] forum on 18 March 2011..."

...The feedback I have received from other partnership brokers is that a significant range of new partnership conversations were started during the forum around a range of themes and activities, which we can now pursue across the region towards improved outcomes in these areas."

Sarah White
Partnership Broker Brisbane North and West, The Smith Family



RDA commissions workforce capability study for Brisbane

RDA Brisbane's Regional Roadmap identifies Brisbane's skills base and labour force availability as critical to the city's economic future.

To help examine our future skill needs, RDA Brisbane has commissioned a Labour Force Capability Assessment - the first stage in developing an action program to address the key issues. The study, to be undertaken by Synergies Economic Consulting, will:

- assess and quantify current and future skills shortages by industry and occupation
- provide insights into the factors that are driving these trends
- review economic and labour market policies and plans across all levels of government
- examine the effectiveness of current training, recruitment and regulatory policies and actions
- recommend how specific skill shortages might be addressed by both the public and private sectors, including industry-specific recommendations.

The Synergies project team will be headed by John Mangan, a Professor of Economics at the University of Queensland and founding Director of the Centre for Economic Development Policy Modelling. The report is expected to be completed within three months, and will be an important foundation document for labour force enhancement strategies and related funding bids.

For more information contact Margaret Blade on 3235 4874 or margaret.blade@rdabrisbane.org.au

Strong Brisbane response to new national infrastructure funding program

Brisbane-based not-for-profit groups and local government have embraced the new Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF), with more than 70 people attending information sessions held in April to help organisations develop proposals for new Brisbane infrastructure.

RDAF, an Australian Government initiative, is providing almost \$1 billion over five years to finance well-researched, strategic infrastructure projects which fit regional needs and priorities. Following RDA Brisbane's highly successful information sessions at Paddington and Mt Gravatt, a high proportion of applications received for the Brisbane region were endorsed by the Committee as aligning with the RDA's Regional Roadmap. Projects were also required to:

- align with one or more of the Australian Government's national priorities
- be "investment ready" (able to start within six months of grant approval and be completed by 30 June 2014)
- have a strong business case supported by project, risk management, quality and procurement planning
- have secured co-funding, with "dollar for dollar" required for applications over \$5 million.

The applications will now compete with over 500 proposals from across Australia in a rigorous, merit-based assessment process by an independent review panel.

RDA Brisbane would like to sincerely thank the representatives from State Government, Tourism

Queensland and the banking sector who assisted at the info sessions by speaking on complementary programs and co-funding opportunities. They were: Rachael Trubai, Maxine Silvestro, Greg Hranka, Michael Wright, Therese Phillips, Mark Tierney and Malcolm Frizzell.



RDAF Round 2 is expected to be announced later in the year. In the meantime, RDA Brisbane is reviewing its Regional Roadmap; this will include conducting a forum of key stakeholders to update and develop strategies and actions in the priority areas of Transport, Future Workforce, Liveability, Emerging Enterprise & Innovation and Carbon. This review is against a background of the effects of the Brisbane flood and the ensuing recovery and rebuilding process,

launch of the RDAF and other government initiatives and policy changes introduced since the Roadmap was completed in September 2010. The Committee will then work with not-for-profit groups and local government to seek and encourage projects which will address the needs and issues identified.

For further info, please contact RDA Executive Officer Margaret Blade on 3235 4874, mob 0419 751 846 or margaret.blade@rdabrisbane.org.au

Government Programs

"myregion" Photo Competition launched

Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government Simon Crean has launched the inaugural "myregion" National Photographic Competition, and will host an exhibition of winning entries at the National Film and Sound Archive in July 2011.

Australian residents have until 26 June 2011 to submit photos, taken over the past year, which showcase the people, places, wildlife, landscapes and nature that make their region special. Winners will be selected by guest judges from the arts including Australian photographer Steve Parish OAM, with the public also able to vote for and comment on entries via a website.

Entries may also feature on the government's new www.myregion.gov.au website to represent Australia's diverse regions and their communities.

For more information, visit the competition website at www.myregion.strutta.com, email contactus@myregion.gov.au or follow myregion on Twitter @myregiongov.au



Environmental Grants

Community groups can now apply for small grants to help fund local environmental projects.

Amounts of between \$5000 and \$20,000 are available through the 2011-2012 round of Community Action Grants, for activities such as tree planting and revegetation, removing weeds, controlling pests, holding field days and improving land management practices.

Applications close on Monday 1 August 2011. For more info go to www.nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html or call 1800 552 008.

\$120M for more liveable cities

The Australian Government has allocated \$120 million in the 2011-12 Budget to help to improve the liveability of our cities, under a "Sustainable Communities" package which promotes effective urban planning and design, and efficient use of new and existing infrastructure.

A total of \$20 million will go towards planning, design, assessment or capital works of initiatives which will improve quality of life, such as urban renewal projects, innovative residential developments and high quality public spaces and streetscapes. There is also a further \$100 million to plan and provide for employment precincts, manufacturing hubs and multi-function developments close to residential areas, in order to reduce commute times and traffic congestion, and improve productivity.

The funds will be provided to state, territory and local governments, potentially in partnership with the private sector. RDA Brisbane will provide further details as they become available.

