

MEDIA ALERT For Immediate Release

6th August 2018

"It's time for city-dwellers to pack up and move"

The Riverina offers a solution to Australia's population woes

It's time for city-dwellers to pack up and move according to <u>Regional Development</u> <u>Australia - Riverina</u>'s Chief Executive Officer, Rachel Whiting.

As Australia's population is set to hit 25 million, there are concerns over whether our cities can cope with the increasing pressure on infrastructure. Mrs Whiting believes the <u>Riverina</u> in regional New South Wales is a clear solution.

'We are fit for the future. We have <u>jobs</u>, space, infrastructure and <u>funding for</u> <u>community investments</u>. It's time people fed up with the city madness to reconsider their choices, and the Riverina should be at the top of their list,' she said.

Mrs Whiting believes urban dwellers need to let go of the misconception there are only opportunities and excitement in city locations.

'This simply isn't true. And the Riverina isn't just about agriculture either. Many industries are thriving and we need more skilled workers to help reach our potential.'

According to the <u>latest research</u>, more people than ever are moving to the Riverina to cash-in on its opportunities. Between 2011-2016, over 4,000 people made the Riverina home – an annual average increase of 0.5%. With an estimated population of 170,000, that's equivalent to only around 2.2 per cent of the residents living within New South Wales, while Sydney has 65 per cent.

Recognising the decision to move isn't always easy, <u>Regional Development Australia</u> - <u>Riverina</u> has created an initiative that helps people make informed decisions.

"Country Change provides the tools and resources to research a move and help make the transition easier," said Mrs Whiting.

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