

MEDIA RELEASE

25 February 2013

**Local Lockhart woman inspired at
2013 National Rural Women's Conference**

As part of an ongoing commitment to youth leadership across the Riverina, Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina recently sponsored local Lockhart woman Ms. Elissa Strong to attend the 2013 National Rural Women's Conference (NRWC), held in Canberra 18 – 20 February.

Ms. Strong was sponsored to attend the NRWC along with two other young women from Wagga Wagga and Griffith, and joined 380 participants from across the country, including more than 35 from the Riverina. The aim of the RDA-Riverina sponsorship offering was to provide a unique opportunity for young women to be inspired and build networks with other rural women who are doing wonderful things to build vibrant rural communities.

Ms. Strong has a rich agricultural background, having grown up on a large broad acre cropping farm near Lockhart and attended Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga where she completed a Bachelor of Agribusiness/Bachelor of Science (Agronomy). Ms. Strong works as an agronomist and grain marketer with Delta Agribusiness, Lockhart.

With a strong passion for the sustainability of Australian agriculture and the viability of small rural communities, Ms. Strong sees herself working in the industry and regional Australia for many years to come. Attending the NRWC was an opportunity for her to network with some of the most influential women in rural Australia.

"I found Catherine Marriott's presentation particularly inspiring, I can easily relate to her cause working in agriculture. I also found Miriam Silva's journey through the corporate world inspiring – she showed that real, down to earth women can work successfully alongside men at the top," Ms. Strong said.

"On a local level, the NRWC really opened my eyes to the amount of support there is for community building. The networks and contacts will be invaluable when working in my local community on various committees and projects.

"I left the NRWC feeling so inspired, having met new people and learnt many new things - from community building and tourism to business development. It was an invaluable experience, particularly realising the abundance of opportunities out there for rural women across Australia and in the Riverina."

ENDS



For media enquiries please contact:

Marg Couch

RDA-Riverina Project Officer

Phone: 02 6964 5540

Mobile: 0487 922 570

Email: po@rdariverina.org.au

More information regarding the key-note speakers at the NRWC can be found at:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/national-rural-women-s-conference-2013/custom-17-d9ae31a0c5f048eca10cf8ed829840ef.aspx>