

## DATA KEY TO PLANNING AHEAD

Accessing the latest demographic and economic data, Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina is preparing for the region's bright future.

RDA Riverina has just subscribed to and started training with REMPLAN – a team of economists, planners and demographers who provide data that will assist local councils and businesses to see emerging issues and opportunities, and plan accordingly.

RDA Riverina is also working with REMPLAN to provide a detailed economic profile and investment prospectus for the region and individual local government areas. It will also provide a valuable service for councils, industry and potential investors in the region

As RDA Riverina Chair Diana Gibbs explains, access to current data is vital in planning for the future based on accurate and up to date facts.

“At RDA Riverina, we take a regional approach to planning and have subscribed to REMPLAN to allow us access to this data to validate trends and potential areas for growth. We also see this information as being a forerunner to our new regional plan.

“We have only just started our training and have so far looked at the recently released 2016 Census data, which shows an encouraging 3.7% population growth in the Riverina.

“Population growth in our country cities and towns makes them more sustainable. We know that the decentralisation of our population leads skilled workers to the Riverina, which creates more opportunities for local businesses and, in turn, attracts other skilled workers. It's about continued and sustainable growth.”

A trusted source of information linking local communities to State and Federal Government initiatives, RDA Riverina will use its REMPLAN subscription to improve access to vital information for local councils, industries and businesses.

“Using our subscription, we plan to provide an information service in the Riverina to make accessing data more affordable and encourage big picture thinking,” Ms Gibbs said.

“With governments encouraging regions to work together, it's more vital than ever that we can identify and seize on the opportunities that will benefit the region as a whole.”

Economic data from the 2016 Census will be released later this year. RDA Riverina will work with REMPLAN on analysing what this means for the Riverina and make this information available.

- Ends -

**MEDIA NOTE: For more information, contact RDA Riverina Executive Officer Rachel Whiting on 0429 444 213.**