

## FUNDING CONTINUES FOR RDA RIVERINA

In an announcement today, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash, Minister for Regional Development confirmed funding for the Regional Development Australia (RDA) network will continue through to 2020.

Quashing rumours that RDAs were facing extinction, Senator Nash outlined a number of changes that are designed to better enable Committees and communities to harness economic opportunity.

RDA Riverina Chair, Diana Gibbs, said the changes are positive for RDA Riverina and the entire region.

“The announcement today has provided us with assurance that our role is valued in the regions and confidence that we are heading in the right direction. Attracting investment and innovation to the Riverina, driving economic growth, and creating local jobs will continue to be our focus – we now have a clearer and stronger direction.

“With the funding support for a strong leadership position and merit-based requirements around the committee we will continue to strengthen as an organisation over the next three years and help lead the region into an exciting and prosperous future,” said Ms Gibbs.

RDA Riverina Executive Officer, Rachel Whiting agrees.

“The changes will allow us to better support some large-scale projects and provide us with more freedom to respond to the unique needs of the Riverina region.”

“Essentially, the Australian Government is asking us to become brokers for regional investment – to move beyond planning and take a more active and facilitative role in the in our region. We have always had a strong eye on the economic imperative of our role so we’re looking forward to moving over to the new charter.

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