



## The Hon Nola Marino MP

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Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories  
Federal Member for Forrest

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### RDA ILLAWARRA SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of RDA Illawarra in supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Led by Chair Mr Edward De Gabriele, RDA Illawarra's engagement with their community, businesses and all levels of Government has been vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

This work is important to managing impacts and ensuring communities and businesses are able to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Key activities being undertaken by RDA Illawarra include:

- Advocating for a range of shovel-ready infrastructure projects in the Illawarra region, from major capital investments through to smaller community infrastructure projects;
- Developing a program to assist small businesses pivot and adapt to the changed market and conditions;
- Working with regional stakeholders to develop a tailored program to support tourism-affected businesses, including through the provision of financial and marketing expertise to support their recovery; and
- Working with industry, peak bodies, local governments and the Illawarra Regional Recovery Taskforce to develop a three-stage regional recovery plan.

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) have played and continue to play an important role in delivering sustainable infrastructure and services to their region. These Committees deliver important work in consulting with communities, promoting and participating in regional initiatives, and providing information and advice on their region to all levels of Government.

Since late March I have been holding regular teleconferences with RDA representatives three times a week. These conversations provided first-hand insights into how local communities are coping, and the impact and effectiveness of Government response measures. This local intelligence is provided directly to Government ministers and agencies to inform policymaking.

I want to thank the RDA Illawarra committee members and staff for their work in driving positive change in your local communities.

If you would like to learn more about how RDA Illawarra is able to assist you, visit its website at [www.rdaillawarra.com.au](http://www.rdaillawarra.com.au).

Further information about the RDA program is available at [www.rda.gov.au](http://www.rda.gov.au).