



eNewsletter

Edition 15 – December 2011

Welcome to another edition of Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Murray's eNewsletter. In this edition, we feature:

1. Minister visits site of the Farm Innovation Technology Expo
2. Carbon Farming Futures
3. Regional NSW First Break Program
4. NSW Training Awards
5. The RDA Murray team is taking a break!

Regional Development Australia – Murray

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From the Editor

Welcome to the December 2011 edition of the RDA Murray eNewsletter. It has been an extremely busy year for the team at RDA Murray and we are all looking forward to enjoying the festive season with our families and having some welcome "down time". From the RDA Murray Committee and Team, we wish our subscribers a fantastic and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming all our readers back in 2012.

Until next year!



Julie

Minister visits site of the Farm Innovation Technology Expo



L-R Marsden Jacob Associates Director Dr Jeremy Cheesman; RDA Murray Business Development Officer Andrew Richardson; Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government the Hon Simon Crean MP; and RDA Murray Chief Executive Officer Barbara Hull.

The RDA Murray (New South Wales) Executive Officer Barbara Hull met with the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP on Tuesday 29 November 2011 to discuss issues pertaining to a region that is looking to diversify as a means of sustaining itself into the future.

One such initiative is the Farm Innovation Technology Expo (FITE) held at the Murray Valley Industry Park (MVIP) in March 2012. One of the aims of the expo is to promote the MVIP as an innovative project for farmers in the region. Ms Hull said all exhibitors had been selected based on the themes for the Expo, including innovation and technology, solar and new technologies, new farm technology, financial opportunities, carbon pricing/trading, and education and career opportunities.





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Minister visits site of the Farm Innovation Technology Expo (continued)

“These topics will drill down and further explore ways to increase efficiency and production on the land,” Ms Hull said. Ms Hull said they were expecting more than 80 exhibitors from all areas in and around Deniliquin, and regions including Southern Riverina, Murray, Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.

“There is guaranteed to be a fantastic cross section of exhibitors to see,” Ms Hull said. “Exhibitors will also have the benefit of thousands of people expected to come through the expo over the two days.”

For more information about FITE visit the [Murray Now](#) website. To find out more about RDA Murray visit our website (www.rdamurray.org.au).

Carbon Farming Futures

The Australian Government’s Securing a Clean Energy Future plan, released in July 2011, has been developed by the Australian Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to an acceptable level and drive investment in renewable energy. The Plan contains four elements – carbon price, innovation in renewable energy, energy efficiency and action on the land (Land Sector Package). Further details on the plan can be found on the [Clean Energy Future](#) website.

The Plan’s \$1.7 billion Land Sector Package is about creating new opportunities for land managers to enhance productivity, gain economic benefits and help the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon storage can also increase the land sector’s resilience to climate change, protect Australia’s natural environment and improve long term farm productivity.

Direct emissions from agriculture are excluded indefinitely from liability under the carbon price mechanism.

However, the land sector currently represents 24 percent of Australia’s total greenhouse gas emissions with methane and nitrous oxide emissions, accounting for around 58 and 76 percent of agriculture’s emissions respectively. These emissions represent an opportunity for agriculture to play an important role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Carbon Farming Futures program will provide \$429 million to ensure that advances in emissions reduction technologies and techniques will continue the evolution of management practices in the land sector towards emissions reduction and improved productivity. These advances will allow farmers and other landholders to benefit from the economic opportunities of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) while assisting Australia in achieving its long term emission reduction targets.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for delivering three components of the Carbon Farming Futures program:

- **Filling the Research Gap** - \$201 million to fund research into new technologies and practices for land managers to reduce emissions and store soil carbon. Also includes a national survey to identify common practice.
- **Action on the Ground** - \$99 million to assist industry and farming groups test and apply research outcomes in real farming situations.
- **Extension and Outreach** - \$64 million to provide information, support and an extension network to assist farmers to participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative.



Key Messages

- Farmers will not be required to pay for on-farm emissions
- Farmers will be able to earn income from reducing their emissions or storing carbon in the landscape
- The Land Sector Package will help farmers reduce their emissions

Applications for the Filling the Research Gap program are now open. To view the guidelines, apply for funding, or to find out more, visit the program’s website (<http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/ftfg>), or email DAFF on <http://www.daff.gov.au/feedback?query=ftfg> or call on 1800 107 760.





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Regional NSW "First Break" Program

An outstanding opportunity for emerging filmmakers who live in Regional NSW to learn, make & travel!



First Break is an initiative of Metro Screen, the leading independent screen learning & development hub in NSW for filmmakers.

First Break is for emerging filmmakers. The First Break agreement will be exclusively between the director & Metro Screen. The applicant may be either the writer/director or a director & writer team where the director has been assigned all rights to the script to be developed & produced through the First Break program (both the writer & director must not have a produced screen credit in their respective roles, that has been released, broadcast or screened at a recognised film festival). Ten projects of up to ten minutes duration will be selected with three places awarded to applicants from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island decent, three places for applicants from a multicultural background & one place awarded to an applicant from regional NSW (travel costs & accommodation for attending Sydney workshops will be provided). Drama, doco, animation, series pilot, experimental, cross-platform will be considered.

For further information about this program, please contact Metro Screen (02 9356 1814) or go to www.metroscreen.org.au.

Applications close 2 February 2012.

NSW TRAINING AWARDS

Applications for the 2012 NSW Training Awards are now open!

You've trained your apprentice, trainee or student for quite a long time. That was the hard part.... now comes the time to celebrate your achievements together. Nominating an individual or organisation for an award shows your pride in their achievements and commitment to training.

Every year the NSW Training Awards celebrate and reward outstanding achievements throughout the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

Nominations for the **2012 NSW Training Awards opened on 1 December 2011 and will close on 30 March 2012**. This means that you have plenty of time to nominate those in vocational education and training that are doing an outstanding job!

Awards are presented to apprentices, trainees, students, trainer/teachers, training organisations, employers and collaborations. For full details of all award categories, please go to www.trainingawards.nsw.gov.au.

Eligibility for the student awards is limited to individuals who have completed or are due to complete their apprenticeship or traineeship or vocational course between 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2012. Apprentices and trainees who have completed prior to this date but whose nominal completion date was in the eligibility period may also be nominated. If you are unsure about learners' completion date, you can check with your local office of NSW Department of Education and Communities by calling 13 28 11.

To nominate for the 2012 NSW Training awards, download an application form from the website or call 1800 306 999 for more details. For all new NSW Training Awards information and to become a fan of the NSW Training Awards on Facebook, go to www.trainingawards.nsw.gov.au.



The RDA Murray team is taking a break!

The Albury, Deniliquin and Western Murray offices of RDA Murray will be closed from 23rd December 2011 and will reopen on 9 January 2012.

We wish our subscribers a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2012!

