



# eNewsletter

## Edition 10 – June 2011

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

- Budget 2011 – 2012 – What it means for Regional Australia
- myregion National Photographic Competition
- Tackling cross border issues
- Agricultural Census is online for farmers

<h3>Budget 2011-2012 – What it means for Regional Australia</h3>
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The Commonwealth Government handed down its 2011 – 2012 Federal Budget, so what does it mean for regional Australia?

The Budget provides a commitment of:

- \$1.8bn over six years to provide critical infrastructure upgrades to hospitals and health services for regional Australians through the Health and Hospitals Fund regional priority rounds;



Balranald District Hospital

- \$500m over five years to strengthen regional higher education and vocational education and training institutions, through the regional priorities round of the Education Investment Fund;
- \$109.9m over four years for universities with regional campuses through increased and better targeted loading payments to regional areas;
- \$916m for the first projects under



the Regional Infrastructure Fund to help unlock the economic potential of our regions;

- \$1b over five years through the Regional Development Australia Fund to finance infrastructure projects that best fit the economic and community needs of the regions;
- Bringing forward the introduction of wireless and satellite services as part of the NBN rollout, so regional Australia can access better broadband sooner;
- Improving transport infrastructure, including upgrading the Hume Highway and investing in freight rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation;
- National Health and Hospitals Network reform, introducing a range of initiatives for rural, remote and regional communities;
- An investment of \$20.3m to strengthen the RDA network;
- An investment of more than \$4m in the myregion website;
- A boost to investment in skills in regional Australia;
- An investment package to build on the success of Evocities in promoting the lifestyle and business opportunities offered in regional centres.

Minister Crean advised that the Commonwealth “will continue to work closely with states, territories, Regional Development Australia committees and local government to ensure effective policy development and service delivery for all Australians, no matter where they live.”

<h3>myregion National Photographic Competition</h3>
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Do you have a passion for taking photos? If you answered yes, then why not take part in the Commonwealth Government’s my region National Photographic Competition.





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Art and life merge through images that tell our stories: past, present and future. As an Australian, you are invited to join the national photographic competition to represent your region and its communities with pictures of people, places, wildlife, landscapes and nature.

Entries will be judging in these voting categories as determined by guest judges including acclaimed Australian photographer Steve Parish OAM. One lucky student will win a personal workshop with Steve.

Participants can submit up to 15 high resolution Australian images photographed in the past year. Winning images will be exhibited at the National Film and Sound Archive in July 2011.

Steve Parish Publishing and Photo Review will select winning images for their company's reproduction. Selected images will also be used by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government to showcase your region, including on the new website [myregion.gov.au](http://myregion.gov.au). The website will feature these images ensuring users see familiar places when they login to discuss community issues.



Wentworth Area

As communities are central to the myregion website, in addition to category winning images, Australians have the opportunity to select their favourite image. You are also invited to comment on posted images and contribute to discussion that supports these important images of Australia.

For further information about this great competition, go to <http://myregion.strutta.com>

## Tackling cross border issues

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services, Andrew Stoner announced that the NSW Government plans to appoint a Cross Border Commissioner who will report annually to the NSW Parliament on the government's progress dealing with cross border issues.

The new Commissioner will streamline decision making on cross border issues and address the needs of communities close to the State's borders.

The move to appoint a new Cross Border Commissioner is expected to help resolve some of the administrative and regulatory issues between NSW and the bordering states of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. The appointment of a new Commissioner means that the unique circumstances of border communities will be taken into account in future government decision making. The Commissioner will look at the impact on border communities of different time zones, hospital and ambulance services, policing and security, and other services such as finance and business services, all of which fall under state government jurisdiction.

The NSW Government will consult widely with border communities and will introduce legislation to Parliament once the consultation process has been completed.

RDA Murray welcomes this initiative as a way of overcoming barriers to state regulations, services and other anomalies, particularly as the Murray region is bordered by Victoria and South Australia. The initiative is vital to enable the sustainability and long term growth of businesses and residents currently affected by cross border differences.





# eNewsletter

## Agricultural Census is online for farmers



The Australian Bureau of Statistics for the first time is implementing an online agricultural census form for farmers to complete. The ABS' Chief Statistician advises that the census provides a comprehensive picture of the industry at the regional level with approximately 170,000 agricultural businesses receiving their forms over the next couple of weeks. As soon as people are in receipt of their forms, they can then go online to provide their information.

The five yearly Agricultural Census assists in providing relevant and quality statistics around the changing face of Australian agriculture. The Agricultural Census is the second largest collection undertaken in Australia after the Population and Housing Census (to be conducted on 9 August 2011).

Information collected on the Agricultural Census will be used by Commonwealth and State government departments, industry bodies and agricultural businesses to help with decision making, policy formation and planning for the future of the industry.



For further information, please go to

[www.abs.gov.au/agcensus2011](http://www.abs.gov.au/agcensus2011)

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An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

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For further information about RDA Murray and how RDA Murray assists communities, businesses and industries within the Murray region, please access

[www.rdamurray.org.au](http://www.rdamurray.org.au)

for the most up-to-date information about programs and other items of interest.



RDA Murray also has a Facebook page. Here readers will also find information about funding and grants programs. RDA Murray is also encouraging people to utilise the Facebook page as a way of keeping us informed of issues that come to hand. You can find our page at [www.facebook.com/rdamurray](http://www.facebook.com/rdamurray).

