



The Hon Nola Marino MP

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Federal Member for Forrest

MEDIA RELEASE

RDA LODDON MALLEE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

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

Led by Chair Ms Linda Beilharz OAM, RDA Loddon Mallee'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 Loddon Mallee include:

- Providing funding to local chambers of commerce to help them support small businesses to recover. The funding enables businesses to access planning services and information that supports them to re-open and transform their operations;
- Participating in a series of Regional Roundtables to ensure actions taken now can set up the region's economy and community for success into the future; and
- Utilising the outcomes of the workshops to develop a recovery response plan for the Loddon Campaspe and Mallee regions.

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 Loddon Mallee 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 Loddon Mallee is able to assist you, visit its website at www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-development-australia/loddon-mallee.

Further information about the RDA program is available at www.rda.gov.au.