**Video Transcript**

**Loddon Mallee RDA**

[Title: Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee]

*Linda Beilharz - Committee Chair, RDA Loddon Mallee*

The RDA Committee’s role is to look for economic opportunity in the region.

We have been working for the last two years on developing an economic growth strategy.

[Vision: View of sheep grazing on farm and harvesting of crops, hay bales and an aerial view of a solar farm and Chinese pergola]

We’re looking in the manufacturing area, in agriculture, we’re also supporting the emerging areas of renewable energy and tourism.

[Vision: View inside greenhouse and people enjoying the café lifestyle, PIINPI signage and inside views of the Bendigo Art Gallery showing art, mannequins, and clothing styles, the Ulumbarra Theatre signage, people enjoying the café lifestyle]

Tourism is a very important industry for our region.

We’re very lucky to have the Bendigo Art Gallery which has international exhibitions, the Ulumbarra Theatre, we have world renowned restaurants and wonderful natural parks.

[Vision: Views of landscape in national parks, sunset view of Tyrrell sign, aerial view of the Lake Tyrrell Development and view of viewing platform in the Mallee Silo Trail]

And last year the RDA Committee put some money towards the Lake Tyrrell Development.

Our small investment enabled them to build a fully-grown tourist attraction there, so that now is a part of the Mallee Silo Trail.

[Vision: View of a couple of people sitting in park and enjoying the gardens]

We know that people are interested to move from Melbourne and the cities to the rural areas.

[Vision: View of water and people swimming, climbing rocks, shopping and enjoying the cafés, parkland and couple walking]

What we would like to do is to assist people to move to the small towns.

We’re working to renew landscapes and streetscapes to let people know about the fantastic lifestyle assets in each of the small towns across our region.

[Vision: Linda speaking. Aerial view of solar farm and close-up view of solar panels]

There are great opportunities in renewables in our region with a lot of interest from people who have been building solar farms but haven’t been able to connect them to the grid.

We have just had the Commonwealth and the State announce a partnership for the KerangLink Interconnector, that will link the state’s solar electricity to the grid and that will enable us to both supply electricity but also to further cement the Loddon Mallee region as a potential hub for the production of green hydrogen.

[Vision: View of university building both inside and outside. Bendigo Tech School sign]

The main barriers for us is workforce, so we’re working with the universities and the TAFE providers to enhance skills.

[Vision: View of technology equipment in building, green room film set, and lecture area and robotics]

One of the exception circumstances now with the COVID experience is that it’s quite possible to learn online and to work online.

[Vision: Linda speaking. Aerial view of university campus, people enjoying the parks and eating at café. View of water and rail line, couple walking along path]

That has opened up the eyes of the universities and TAFEs, and it also means that we’re able to support people who work in the regions, and that will help us assist with some of the workforce shortages, but also help us to move populations from Melbourne.

[Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee - An Australian Government Initiative - Victoria State Government]