**Video Transcript**

**Grampians RDA**

[Title: Regional Development Australia - Grampians]

*Stuart Benjamin - Committee Chair, RDA Grampians*

[Vision: Views of the Grampian area showing people at the Inverleigh Bakehouse]

The Grampians is just an amazing place to live, a great place to raise a family, a wonderful place to work and with incredible connections back to not only Victoria but to the rest of Australia.

[Vision: view of agriculture and wind-power turbines]

The economy is undertaking a seismic shift.

We’re looking at how do we add value to the agriculture that we grow here, but also from a renewable energy point of view?

We are the richest renewable energy region in Australia and we’re looking to exploit that for the benefit of our community.

*Pru Cook - Committee Deputy Chair, RDA Grampians*

Our vision for the Grampians region are happy and healthy communities and landscapes supported by a robust local economy.

[Vision: Inverleigh Bakehouse signage and produce inside, lady arranging flowers and serving customer, people tending to plants and collecting strawberries]

This would include improved employment opportunities particularly in relation to modern manufacturing, agricultural technology and renewable energy, affordable, appropriate and available housing, and equitable access to health, education and telecommunication services.

*Stuart Benjamin - Committee Chair, RDA Grampians*

[Vision: Lady and children tending to chickens]

The Grampians already produces more energy than we consume, we’re already zero carbon on our energy production.

[Vision: Market stalls with man stocking fridge with meat]

But the project we’re looking at, which is Behind the Grid, is how can we use that energy to add value to products we already produce here and use that energy locally to create jobs and opportunities for our community.

*Pru Cook - Committee Deputy Chair, RDA Grampians*

[Vision: Man watering plants, aerial view of pasture and cows, man tending to cows]

Only 1% of the raw agricultural commodity that we export from the area actually stays within regional Victoria, so that means we’re exporting a lot of our raw produce to other regions so that they can make money from it.

We want to change this and as a consequence we’re looking at investment opportunities and doing supply chain mapping to look at how we can value-add to agriculture within the Grampians region and change the economic landscape and increase employment opportunities.

*Stuart Benjamin - Committee Chair, RDA Grampians*

We’re a little bit surprised that it’s taken city-dwellers so long to realise how fantastic the Grampians is.

[Vision: View of a couple on top of a mountain. View of greenhouse and flowers within]

Our population is expanding and we’re growing at the fastest rate that we have for over 100 years.

It’s going to present a number of pressures on our communities but an incredible opportunity.

[Vision: Various tradesman working on building]

We’ve got a lot of skill-gaps that we need to fill, a lot of specialist employment that we need to attract to the region, and for the first time in a long time we’re getting people knocking on our door as opposed to the other way around.

[Regional Development Australia Grampians. An Australian Government Initiative, Victoria State Government]