



**Regional  
Development**  
*Australia*  
I L L A W A R R A

## **Quarterly Report to the Region**

July to September 2021



## TOP 5 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. RDA Illawarra launches new Strategy and FY22 Business Plan
2. Covid Illawarra Jobs Impact Webinars held September & October for stakeholders
3. Picton Road Submission advocates for dual carriageway
4. Port Precinct and Port activation investment attraction continues
5. Successful Mentor Engagement for Leadership Illawarra Program

# RDA Illawarra launches new Strategy and FY22 Business Plan

The Board of RDA Illawarra have reviewed our economic development context and recently endorsed a new Strategy. The Chair of RDA Illawarra, Eddy De Gabriele, said “our new Strategy on a page clearly identifies our strategic agenda and guides the board’s focus areas. This new RDA Strategy sets the tone for our long term strong and confident regional economy.” RDA Illawarra's new Strategy is focused on three pillars:

**Connectivity** - enabling infrastructure to improve connectivity between Illawarra and Sydney/Western Sydney to unlock investment opportunities

**Jobs** - create a diverse economy that maximises jobs and industries for the region's future

**Resilience** - Secure innovative solutions that drive a resilient and sustainable region



Read our Strategy and FY22 Business Plan on a page [here](#).

## RDA Illawarra Strategy

**Vision** We will grow a strong and confident Illawarra regional economy that harnesses competitive advantages, seizes on economic opportunities and attracts investments.

**Purpose** We are neutral brokers who collaborate across all levels of government, community and business for the growth of the Illawarra's economy. We value our people, culture and sustainable development.



**Connectivity**



**Jobs**



**Resilience**



# Covid Illawarra Jobs Impact Webinars held September & October for stakeholders



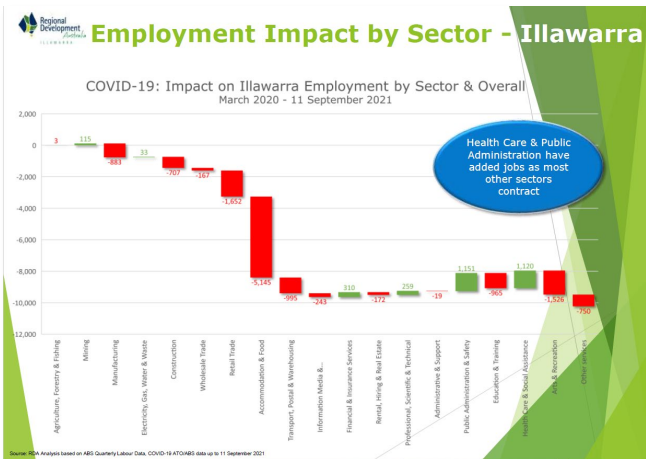
RDA Illawarra has collated and analysed the COVID-19 jobs impact data on a fortnightly basis, using ABS and ATO Payroll data for the past 19 months. Monthly webinars were held in September and October to explore the story behind the numbers. These 30-minute brisk briefings graphically review the impact on Illawarra jobs and industry, including:

- industry sectors impact
- job winners and losers
- exploration of the job trends
- impact on commuting.

Watch the webinars on YouTube here:

[September](#)    [October](#)

To join the mailing list to receive invitations to future events email [admin@rdailawarra.com.au](mailto:admin@rdailawarra.com.au)



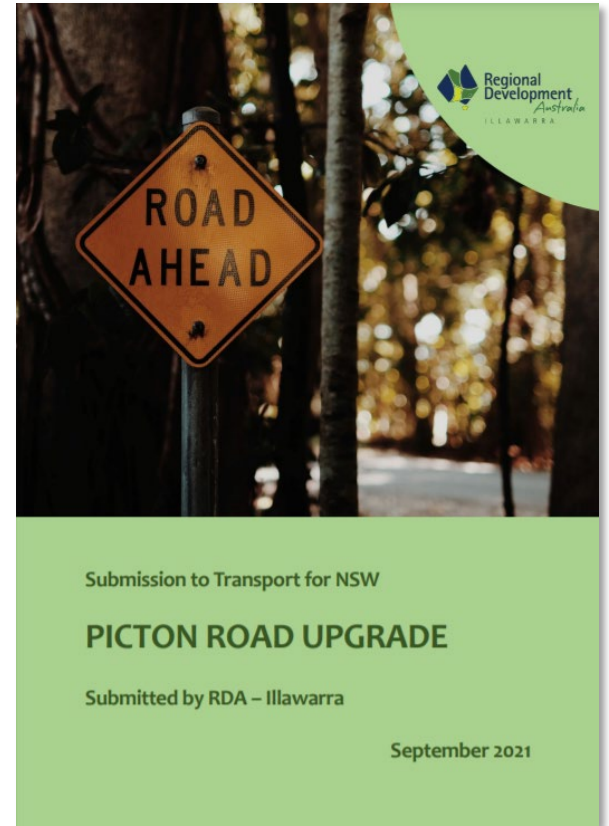
# Picton Road Submission advocates for dual carriageway

The duplication of Picton Road, along with the connecting Mount Ousley Interchange project, are both part of the Illawarra Shoalhaven [City Deal](#) project, coordinated by RDA Illawarra.

As part of the City Deal, RDA Illawarra have advocated for Picton Road to be a full four-lane divided highway for 24 kms along with improving the interchange at the bottom of Mount Ousley and widening Mt Ousley Rd from the University of Wollongong to Picton Road.

In November 2020, the NSW Government announced \$44 million to plan for an upgrade of Picton Road between the Wilton Growth Area and the M1 Princes Motorway.

Transport for NSW are now developing strategic options which can be used to identify and prioritise a program of work. See our submission to Transport for NSW on the proposed Picton Road upgrades [here](#).



# Port Precinct and investment attraction continues

- RDA Illawarra has continued to work proactively on optimizing the highest and best use of the Port Industrial Lands and Precinct. We have continued conversations with land owners, the Greater Sydney Commission and Transport for NSW.
- In July, we welcomed the ruling by Justice Jagot of the Federal Court that dismissed the ACCC's case against the NSW Government & NSW Ports Pty Ltd. The case alleged provisions in the Commitment Deeds were anti-competitive. The judgement by Justice Jagot makes it clear that Port Kembla will be the second Container Terminal for NSW, a win for Port Kembla's growth, freight efficiency and reliability of supply chains in NSW.
- BlueScope Steel achieved Critical State Significant Infrastructure status by Minister for Planning for the \$700-\$800 million No. 6 Blast Furnace reline project at Port Kembla. This project is important to the economic future of the Illawarra region, and beyond.



# Successful Mentor Engagement for Leadership Illawarra Program

The 2021 LIP Mentor Program was launched in May with a training session and meet and greet event at Inside Industry.

The [Leadership Illawarra Program](#) cohort are fortunate to gain access to a diverse group of highly experienced mentors and business leaders through the LIP Mentor Program.

In September, a joint online celebration was held with JCI Illawarra who delivered a similar program, MentorMe for a group of junior Illawarra leaders.

Positive feedback was received from mentees on the ways the program has helped them to learn and grow as leaders:

*“it has provided an opportunity to discuss issues and gain fresh insight into how to deal with them in an open and professional environment. I have been challenged in the way I think.”*

Mentors also report benefits from the program:

*“my mentee is an extraordinary young man, and I once again enjoyed the opportunity to learn from him”.*



Expressions of interest for the next Leadership Illawarra Program are open now, find out more and register [here](#).

# RDA Illawarra Board

More information on the RDA Illawarra Board members can be found [here](#).

If you have any feedback or insights, please contact us here:

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*Linda Davis* (Director Planning and Environment, Wollongong Council), *Jessica De Angelis* (Executive Officer – Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District), *Eddy De Gabriele* (Self Employed), *Greg Doyle* (General Manager – Wollongong City Council), *Joanna Kubota* (Executive Director – Western Parkland Councils), *Trish McClure* (Senior Manager Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning – WCC), *Carey McIntyre* (Chief Executive Officer – Shellharbour City Council), *Craig Osborne* (Managing Partner – RMB Lawyers), *Mark Roberts* (Senior Manager Strategic Projects – UOW), *Daniel Rowan* (Managing Director – Internetrix), *Mark Sleigh* (General Manager – Destination Wollongong), *Nicky Sloan* (CEO – Community Industry Group), *Milco Stojanoski* (Manager Slabmaking, Australian Steel Products – BlueScope), *Paul Wellings CBE* (Emeritus Professor, UOW).