



**Regional
Development**
Australia

I L L A W A R R A

Quarterly Report to the Region

October to December 2021



TOP 5 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Illawarra gains \$6.7m in Building Better Regions Funding Round 5
2. Skills Roundtables drive grass-roots actions to address skill shortages
3. Hospitality Sector Jobs Drive generates >140 job pledges in December
4. Migration Submission advocates for maintenance of migrant intake
5. Leadership Illawarra Program reaches >100 participants

Illawarra gains \$6.7m in Building Better Regions Funding Round 5

The Illawarra region was awarded \$6,700,000 in funding in October 2021 by the federal government for two projects, which is a great win and a total combined investment of nearly \$16 million:

- Southern Youth and Family Services was awarded \$5.668 million towards a \$11.335 million project to construct 21 new social housing units for disadvantaged youth
- Tennis NSW was awarded \$1 million towards a \$4.63 million project to expand, upgrade and install infrastructure to create a nationally significant tennis venue at Beaton Park



Details of successful projects under Round 5 are available here:

[Infrastructure Projects Stream](#)
[Community Investments Stream](#)

RDA Illawarra is pleased to have supported both applicants through the grant application development process in Round 5.

If you have a project for Round 6, which is open for applications until 10 February 2022, please get in touch and we will help you to put forward your best application.

BBRF Round 6 is OPEN NOW
contact us for assistance at
admin@rdailawarra.com.au:
[Infrastructure Projects Stream](#)
& [Community Investment Stream](#).

Skills Roundtables drive grass-roots actions to address skill shortages

RDA Illawarra, in conjunction with the Member for Whitlam, Stephen Jones, and Member for Cunningham, the Hon. Sharon Bird, ran a series of three virtual Skill Shortages roundtables to address skills shortages in the region.

Illawarra stakeholders from diverse sectors attended to identify skill shortages, common concerns and pressure points. Together the group produced a plan including both short and long-term actions and opportunities to address the skill needs of the region's employers.

Links to the
Roundtable outcomes
are here:

[6 October 2021](#)
[10 November 2021](#)
[3 December 2021](#)

The context for the urgent skills concerns included the pandemic pressures such as: furloughed workforces; stop and start lockdowns; remote working; frontline service provision challenges; mandatory vaccinations; disaster payments; border closures; and population changes, with reduced migrant workers.

All of these factors have put even more pressure on re-opening post Lockdown in the Illawarra's skill shortage environment.

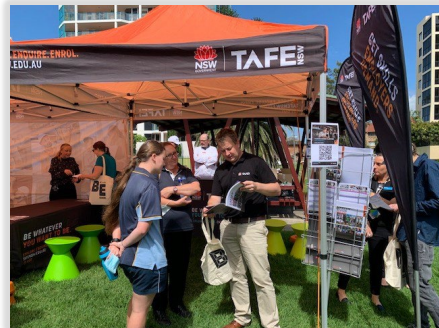
Find out more about two of
the new initiatives here:

Community Industry Group's
[CareForce Hub](#)

RDA Illawarra & Local Jobs
Program - Illawarra South
Coast [Hospitality Jobs Drive](#)



Hospitality Sector Jobs Drive generates >140 job pledges in December



- RDA Illawarra, in conjunction with the Local Jobs Program – Illawarra South Coast, held a Hospitality Jobs Drive to match employers job needs with potential employees on 7 December at Osbourne Park, Wollongong.
- The targeted initiative for the hospitality sector was a result of the Illawarra Skill Shortages Roundtable discussions and stakeholders' desire to take swift action to address hospitality skills shortages. The initiative was supported by the Hon Sharon Bird MP, Federal Member for Cunningham, Stephen Jones MP, Federal Member for Whitlam and local media.
- Over 140 jobs were pledged by employers in the hospitality sector. Oscars Hotels Group and Novotel Wollongong Northbeach were delighted to secure interviews with several candidates on the day and TAFE Wollongong made several new connections with potential students.

Migration Submission advocates for maintenance of migrant intake

- The Illawarra region is heavily reliant on migrants for its population growth, with over 80 per cent of Wollongong's growth coming from overseas migration. It has made the largest contribution to population growth in the Illawarra for the past three years and is vital for the continued growth of the regional economy.
- RDA Illawarra proposed maintenance of the migrant intake (~160,000 per annum) for 2022-23 in the region in its December 2021 submission to Australia's Migration Program for 2022-23.
- RDA Illawarra made eight recommendations to the Department of Home Affairs, including those that address policy settings, attraction of prospective migrants, greater transparency on skilled migrant requirements and more frequent and granular surveys of skill requirements in regions.



Read our submission [here](#).

Leadership Illawarra Program reaches >100 participants

Now in its 10th year of operation, the [Leadership Illawarra Program](#) has impacted over 100 participants and their organisations.

The 5th cohort of Illawarra's leaders are now in their second year of the program. Highlights from 2021 included:

- Learning directly from the region's leaders during site visits to [Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District](#), [BlueScope](#) and [Peoplecare](#)
- Three [Great Managers](#) leadership education workshops covering Self Awareness, Self Management and Critical Conversations
- Four months of [focused 1-1 mentoring](#) with a senior Illawarra leader
- Two full day UOW Masterclasses in [Marketing](#) and [Leadership](#)
- [Networking for Success](#) workshop and celebration with [LIP Alumni](#)

[What participants say](#): *“The Leadership Illawarra Program provides us not only with the tools, the techniques and the opportunity for discussion around becoming better rounded leaders, but also the opportunity to network and together step outside our organisations and discuss the best way for us to contribute back to the Illawarra region as a whole.”*



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:

email: admin@rdailawarra.com.au
phone: 02 4258 3610
website: www.rdailawarra.com.au



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ILLAWARRA



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).