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Regional  
Development  
*Australia*

ILLAWARRA

# Quarterly Report to the Region

July to September 2023

# Top 5 Achievements



1. Enabling a 30 Minute City through public transport research released
2. Regional skills demand Forum held in August
3. Skilled Migration Information Sessions for employers and migrants
4. National Hydrogen Strategy Review Recommendations
5. RDA Illawarra joins Renewable Energy in the Illawarra Forum

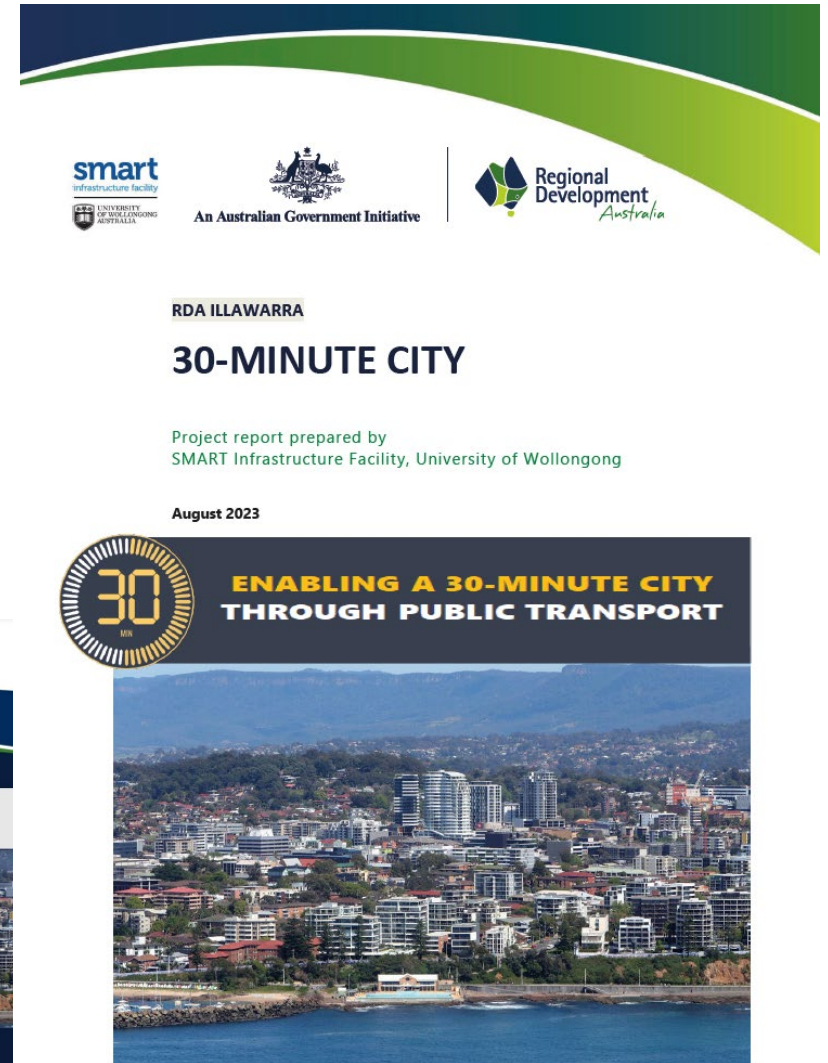
# Enabling a 30 Minute City through public transport research released

RDA Illawarra's Enabling a 30 Minute City through public transport research report by UOW's SMART Infrastructure Facility was released in August.

We are now calling on the NSW Government to commit to the development of an Integrated Multi-Modal Services Plan for the Illawarra to combat peak-hour road congestion.

Advocacy has continued since the report launch with briefings occurring with Ministers, MPs, Mayors, Transport for NSW, Councils and other stakeholders.

[Read the full report here and summary presentation here](#)



# Regional skills demand Forum held in August



A Skills Forum was convened in August and attended by over 40 regional stakeholders who together decided on actions to address shortages.

RDA Illawarra is undertaking a 2-year research project to identify skills demand and future opportunities in the Illawarra.

Research from the first round of the survey with 185 employers shows 56 percent of Illawarra businesses rate the level of skills shortages as either high (31%) or extreme (25%) with Shellharbour employers rating the shortage more critical at 77 percent.

Results of the second wave of research undertaken during October will be available soon – watch this space.

## Perceived Cause of Skill Shortages

### Key Themes:

- 1 Seeking Better Wages + Conditions
- 2 Switching - Occupation or Industry Change
- 3 Housing Affordability + Availability
- 4 Poor Transport Links

Read the presentation on the first wave of research [here](#)

Read The Big 5 Questions + Group Actions from the Skills Forum [here](#)

# Skilled Migration Information Sessions for employers and migrants



In August, RDA Illawarra hosted two Skilled Migration visa information sessions. The first brought employers together with representatives from the Department of Home Affairs and the Migration Institute of Australia who explained different visa options and the importance of understanding the visa process and obtaining expert advice.



Skilled migrants with family and friends attended the second session that was focussed on settling into the region. Guest speakers from the Department of Home Affairs, the Migration Institute of Australia, Service NSW, Work + Stay and Illawarra Multicultural Services gave migrants information on the different visa options and a variety of services and support available to them.

[Access the Migration Settlement pack here](#)

# National Hydrogen Strategy Review Submission

RDA Illawarra made a submission to the National Hydrogen Strategy Review and put forward the following recommendations to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water:

- If Australia are to be world leaders, we must rapidly develop our emerging hydrogen industry
- A significant increase in power generation is required by the hydrogen industry, and offshore wind will play a crucial role in delivering this
- A transition period may be needed, and this could require the commercialisation of early hydrogen production using power generated by fossil fuels
- It is crucial to link hydrogen production to 'green' power generation. Eventually all hydrogen will be generated using sustainable energy, and the need for power must be linked to hydrogen production
- Remain neutral on technology especially during the transition period when marriages of new and emerging technology may be required
- Government support will be vital to support the emerging industry and its supply chains



Read RDA Illawarra's National Hydrogen Strategy Review submission [here](#)

# RDA Illawarra joins Renewable Energy in the Illawarra Forum

RDA Illawarra CEO Debra Murphy was a panel member at the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) Renewable Energy in the Illawarra Forum in August.

BlueFloat Energy's Head of Environment and Planning Deb Neumann provided an overview of the South Pacific Offshore Wind Project and highlighted the multi-jurisdictional approvals process the project will require.

The forum was hosted by Stantec, a global leader in sustainable design and engineering. The event brought environmental professionals from across the region together to consult and discuss the renewable energy challenges and future opportunities.



Panel members left to right: Deb Neumann – BlueFloat - Energy; Mark Grimson – Wollongong City Council; Debra Murphy – RDA Illawarra

## Project location



# RDA Illawarra Board & CEO

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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CEO - RDA Illawarra