



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

Quarterly Report to the Region

January to March 2021



TOP 5 ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1) RDA Illawarra Deputy Chair, Joanna Kubota, and all board members reappointed until June 2023
- 2) Illawarra Hydrogen Hub receives groundswell of support
- 3) Skilled Migration Visa services (491 and 494) launched
- 4) COVID-19 Job impacts – year in review stakeholder briefing
- 5) Future of Work thought leadership – 8 articles published

RDA Illawarra Deputy Chair, Joanna Kubota, and all board members reappointed until June 2023

All of the existing RDA Illawarra Board members have been reappointed until June 2023.

Assistant Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Nola Marino MP welcomed the reappointment of Joanna Kubota as Deputy Chair of RDA Illawarra, along with all the returning board members. All existing board members have been reappointed, including Professor Paul Wellings CBE, who despite leaving his role as Vice-Chancellor of UOW in May 2021, will continue as a board member of RDA Illawarra.

Joanna Kubota is the Executive Director of Western Parkland Councils and has an extensive background in trade-related roles, including Australian Consul and Trade Commissioner for Hokkaido, Japan, as well as founding Mentor/Adviser to the University of Wollongong's UOW iAccelerate.

Read more about RDA Illawarra Board Members [here](#).



RDA Illawarra Board Member, Professor Paul Wellings CBE



RDA Illawarra Deputy Chair, Joanna Kubota

Illawarra Hydrogen Hub receives groundswell of support

RDA Illawarra, in co-operation with RDA Sydney, submitted a 14 page brief to the Standing Committee on State Development regarding 'Development of a hydrogen industry in NSW'. The submission stated that an Illawarra Hydrogen Hub will leverage existing infrastructure for the production and distribution of hydrogen at Port Kembla, available [here](#). We also invited the Standing Committee to Wollongong for the Hearing.

Private sector interest and investment has also been proactively supported by RDA Illawarra, including the following projects:

- Squadron Energy/AIP plans to build and operate a dual-fuel hydrogen and natural gas **Power Station at Port Kembla**.
- **Port Kembla Gas Import Terminal** (LNG) progressing well with site works underway.
- **Coregas** announcement of Port Kembla as Australia's first hydrogen refuelling station and hydrogen-fuelled prime movers within the next 8 months.

It is pleasing to see these investments in future energy assets at Port Kembla and the opportunities that Hydrogen can bring to the region.



Skilled Migration Visa services launched (491 and 494)



RDA Illawarra is pleased to have launched Skilled Migration services in March 2021 for two types of Visas:

1. Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa ([subclass 491](#)) that enables eligible skilled workers and their families to live, work and study in designated regional areas.
2. Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa ([subclass 494](#)) that enables Australian employers in the Illawarra region to sponsor skilled overseas workers.

There has been strong interest in the new 491 program, with numerous applications and enquiries from potential applicants.

Find out more about the RDA Illawarra Skilled Migration program [here](#).

COVID-19 Job impacts – year in review stakeholder briefing

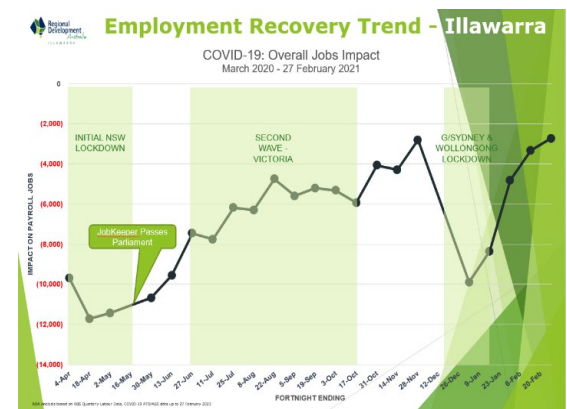
On 31 March, RDA Illawarra briefed stakeholders with a presentation on ‘COVID-19: Impact on Jobs & Recovery – One Year Later’ using data and analysis from the past year. The briefing covered:

- Local and National Employment
- JobKeeper Uptake
- Commuting Habits
- Migration
- Regional Growth

The Accommodation & Food and Education sectors were reported to be the most heavily impacted.

A reduction in Wollongong’s population growth due to falling overseas migration was another key area of concern.

Read more [here](#).



Future of Work thought leadership articles published

As part of the Future of Work Project, RDA Illawarra has authored an 8 part series of thought provoking articles to explore the continuum of the future of work, from 100% working in the office, through to 100% working from anywhere.

In the middle of the continuum are the blended or hybrid models of remote working, which include combinations of co-working spaces and ‘hubs’, working from home and regional decentralisation.

The articles, issued to our mailing list and shared on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), will propel the reader’s thinking and encourage discussion about the future of work in the Illawarra region.

- Read articles [here](#).
- To subscribe to the Future of Work Project mailing list – email admin@rdailawarra.com.au



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* (Director Corporate Governance & Strategy – 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* (General Manager – 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 Digital, Services and Manufacturing Excellence – BlueScope), *Paul Wellings CBE* (Vice Chancellor, UOW).