



**Regional  
Development**  
*Australia*

I L L A W A R R A

# **Quarterly Report to the Region**

January to March 2022



## TOP 5 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Prime Minister announces Port Kembla as potential Submarine base
2. Pre-Budget Submissions put to NSW & Australian Governments
3. Six Cities and Greater Cities Commission includes Illawarra-Shoalhaven
4. Population growth and its importance to economic development – thought-leadership, analysis and webinar
5. RDA Illawarra hosts visit by Peter Poulos – Parliamentary Secretary for Wollongong and the Illawarra

# Prime Minister announces Port Kembla as potential Submarine base

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Prime Minister announced the new AUKUS Submarines would be based on the East Coast of Australia, at one of three locations – Brisbane, Newcastle or Port Kembla.

If Port Kembla was successful in obtaining 4 submarines, RDA Illawarra estimates that this would generate \$3.2 billion in gross regional product (GRP) and over 7,000 jobs. Many of the jobs are high tech and highly paid roles.

Read RDA Illawarra's CEO, Debra Murphy's Sydney Morning Herald opinion piece [here](#).

The project also has the additional benefits of housing stimulation and would enable a strengthening of our regional innovation and technology ecosystem.

RDA Illawarra has affirmed our support and we will continue to advocate for Defence locating in Port Kembla.

## ILLAWARRA NEWSROOM

### Port Kembla on submarine base shortlist

07 March 2022



A number of groups have weighed into the decision to shortlist Port Kembla, as a base of operations for Australia's nuclear powered submarines.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Illawarra welcomed the announcement today by the Prime Minister that the new submarine fleet will be based on the East Coast of Australia.

Eddy De Gabriele, Chair of RDA Illawarra said "We believe that Port Kembla is the ideal location given our proximity to Fleet Base East/Garden Island operations in Sydney and Albatross and other naval operations in Nowra.

Debra Murphy, CEO of RDA Illawarra said "a small maritime Defence presence in Port Kembla would deliver a huge economic benefit to the region, we estimate that if 4 submarines were located in Port Kembla, this would generate \$3.2 billion to our economy (gross regional product) and 7,000 jobs."

# Pre-Budget Submissions put to NSW & Australian Governments

RDA Illawarra has recommended seven initiatives that would help transform the Illawarra and Regional NSW in submissions to both the State and Federal governments. The recommendations are intended to deliver transformative infrastructure, a vibrant and more diverse visitor economy as well as regional economic resilience.

Key specific recommendations made to both NSW and Commonwealth governments include:

- South-West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL)
- Picton Road
- Port Kembla Industrial Precinct
- Marine Economy
- Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Precinct
- Co-working hubs



Links to the  
Submissions

[NSW](#)

[Federal](#)

RDA Illawarra calculates that investment in these initiatives can deliver over 12,500 new jobs to the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region.

# Six Cities and Greater Cities Commission includes Illawarra-Shoalhaven

Passed by both Houses



New South Wales

## Greater Cities Commission Bill 2022

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The Greater Cities Commission Bill 2022 legislation was passed by both Houses in the NSW Parliament on 22 March 22. This reform will see the Illawarra region included as part of the long-term plans of the Megaregions across 30 local government areas, including three in the Illawarra.

RDA Illawarra is continuing to work with the State Government, Greater Cities Commission and Ministers office to position the Illawarra for success. There are opportunities for Precincts to be developed which can drive long-term economic outcomes for the region, and beyond.

Link to Greater Cities  
Commission Bill 2022

[here](#)



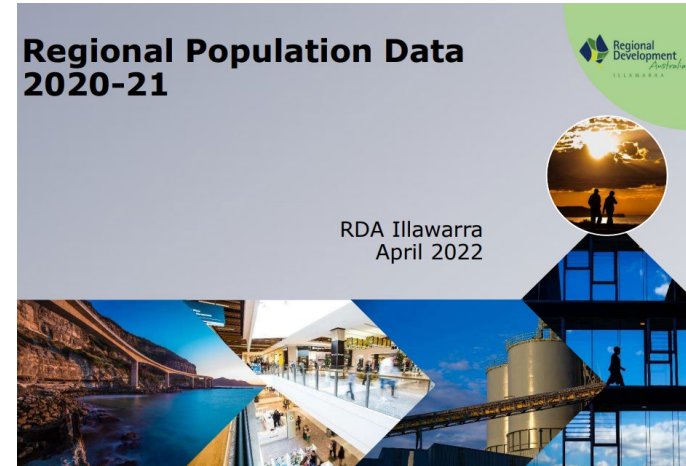
# Population growth and its importance to economic development – thought-leadership, analysis and webinar

Is the Illawarra Future-Ready?

RDA Illawarra held a free webinar on 13<sup>th</sup> April 22 to discuss some of the findings relating to the region's infrastructure needs and the changing population.

The webinar answers some significant questions, such as:

- Is the Illawarra at full employment?
- Do we have more jobs than people?
- Are people moving to the Illawarra as much as they are moving to the Hunter & Far South Coast?
- Is housing affordable (purchase and/or renting) in the Illawarra compared to the rest of NSW?
- What does all this mean for the future of the Illawarra region?



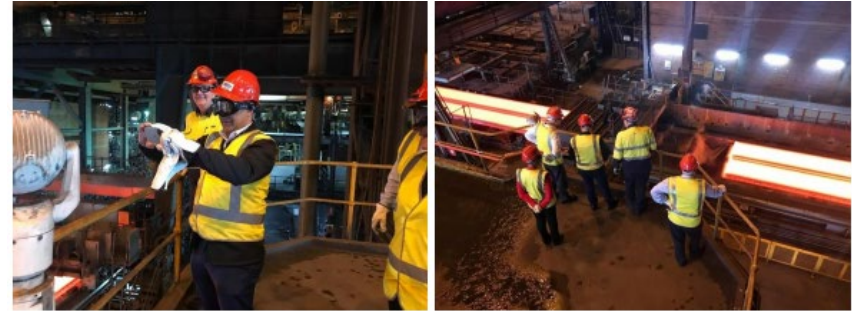
Link to webinar [here](#) and analysis [here](#)

# RDA Illawarra hosts visit by Peter Poulos Parliamentary Secretary for Wollongong and the Illawarra

RDA Illawarra hosted a visit by Peter Poulos MP (Parliamentary Secretary for Wollongong and the Illawarra) to Port Kembla, including meetings with BlueScope, AIE and Illawarra Hydrogen Hub on 6 April 2022.

The visit demonstrated the changing nature of the Port, the opportunities for new energy and capital investment projects at Port Kembla.

We look forward to continuing to work with our new Parliamentary Secretary.



# 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).