

3. Regional Development Australia

Expressions of interest have been called for nominations to the new Regional Development Australia network of committees in NSW.

Group Manager, Community and Relationships

BACKGROUND

10 Regional Development Australia (RDA) has been established to replace the Australian Government's Area Consultative Committees and the NSW Government's Regional Development Boards which focussed on economic development. The RDA will establish committees across NSW. The group representing this area incorporates Bega Valley, Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven local government areas.

Expressions of interest have been called for committee members for the committees and local government has been encouraged to nominate. The nomination process was recently discussed at the Southern Councils Group General Managers meeting. The RDA will have a broader, more strategic role to facilitate effective engagement between government and regional communities and responsiveness to local needs.

RDA committees will represent the broad interests of their region and provide grassroots advice to the Australian and NSW Governments. The appointments will be made by RDA and will be for periods of two and up to four years commencing by 1 July 2009.

20 **ISSUES**

Policy

It is critical that Bega Valley Shire Council has a link to RDA and the opportunity to promote local policy into the RDAs discussions.

Environmental

The RDA will oversee communication about environmental issues between local areas and the NSW and Australian Governments.

Social / Cultural and Economic

30 The RDA will oversee communication about social, education, and health issues and economic development and business opportunities between local areas and the NSW and Australian Governments.

Consultation

The RDA will become a critical conduit between local areas and the NSW and Australian Governments on a range of issues.

CONCLUSION

It is important that the Bega Valley Shire Council has representation at a Councillor and staff level on the Regional Development Australia committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cr (name to be inserted at the meeting) and the General Manager be nominated to Regional Development Australia for consideration for membership of the local committee.

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