



**08 April 2020**

**Media Release: RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island responds to the COVID-19-induced economic disaster**

The COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in unheard of economic and personal impact in peacetime living memory. It is at all scales from world to local. It is broad in impact with very few winners. For our Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island communities it also comes on the back of the devastating impacts of the summer bushfires.

During crises like these, the roles of Regional Development Australia (RDA) come to the fore and RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island is proactively working to:

- Inform our communities with details of government programs, supports and sources of information. We have created a COVID-19 page on our website with a distilled list of key information sources, and we have created a list of funding and grant options on Hills & Coast Grant Finder.
- Inform state and federal governments with evidence-based intelligence and advice on critical issues surrounding the COVID-19 impacts on our region. We gather intel through discussions with businesses, industry groups, NFP's, councils, neighbouring RDA's and we have released a regional survey to track key issues through the crisis.
- Identify and fight for opportunities for our communities to manage through the crisis and to maximise recovery which includes funding priority developments to

support economic activity and might include initiatives such as the establishment of business mentoring services and a demand-supply matching service.

CEO, Damien Cooke said;

*“The economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will require a coordinated, collaborative response from all stakeholders and at all levels of government. Our economy hasn’t taken a hit like this in living memory. We will focus on working with the federal and state governments to roll out their recovery programs. We will work on the ground in the regions with councils, communities and industries to support recovery and make the most of the opportunities that will arise.”*

We invite anyone, public or private, with an interest in our region to make contact with us. We are here to assist, to discuss your issues, problem-solve, advocate for you, connect you and plan for the future.

For discussion and further information, please contact:

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