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ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

Media release

RDA AHFKI National Award for Economic Development Excellence

Manufacturing isn't dead: The forgotten entrepreneurs!

Monday, 28 August 2023

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) has received national recognition for its outstanding efforts in economic development. The organisation secured a win in the prestigious **2023 Economic Development Awards for Excellence**, a testament to the team's dedication and commitment to fostering regional economic growth and innovation.

This top honour was achieved in **Category 5: Economic Development Initiatives – Regions Over 15,000 Residents** for RDA AHFKI's **2022 Hills & Coast Business Grant – Manufacturing isn't dead: The forgotten entrepreneurs!** Showcasing the region's potential for entrepreneurial endeavours, this initiative demonstrated a forward-thinking approach that supported the manufacturing sector with grant funding of up to \$10,000. The Hills & Coast Business Grant empowered nine innovative manufacturing businesses across the Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island to enhance their productivity, expand product lines and improve work health and safety.

The award was accepted by Regional Development Manager, Sue Arlidge ACEcD, at the Awards Gala held Thursday, 24 August at Cossack, Karratha. It was a deeply gratifying win for RDA AHFKI, who were finalists in the 2022 awards for Economic Development Through Partnerships & Collaboration for their work establishing the Fleurieu Community Co-operative to reopen the Strathalbyn Abattoir.

The 2023 Economic Development Awards for Excellence not only celebrate achievements, but also inspire a collective vision for an economically robust and sustainable future. RDA AHFKI remains committed to driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and creating opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs across

the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, and Kangaroo Island regions, with this award underscoring their dedication to this outcome.

For further additional insights into the transformative impact of this award-winning project, visit <https://rdahc.com.au/projects/hills-coast-business-grant-2022>.

“As a nation, manufacturing’s been on the decline, but in our region it’s growing. Albeit, some of it is small, but the sector is employing more and more people. We saw it as a really important part of our economy to focus on and support.”

~ Mr Steve Shotton, Director of Regional Development | RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island

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