



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*

## ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

# Media release

## RDA AHFKI Welcomes New Economic Development Officer

September 2024

RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, and Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) is pleased to announce the appointment of David Ridley in the role of Economic Development Officer. David brings extensive experience across public and private sectors, including entrepreneurship, directing non-profits, and working in government, to support economic growth in the region.

Born in Victor Harbor with deep family roots in the area, David's strong ties to the community and his commitment to fostering connections make him a valuable addition to the RDA AHFKI team.

David's most recent experience working for a State Member has highlighted the critical need for strong collaboration between government, businesses, and the community, all of which align well with RDA's purpose. His hands-on experience in founding and establishing a successful business within the region gives him unique insights into raising capital, strategic partnerships, and community engagement. Drawing on his expertise, David is dedicated to bridging the gaps between sectors, ensuring that economic development is responsive to regional needs and fosters development of new opportunities.

**"We're thrilled to welcome David to the RDA AHFKI team. His deep connection to the region, experience in economic development, and entrepreneurial skills are a great fit for the RDA team and our vision to support a prosperous region made up of engaged, connected and resilient communities."**

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

David shared his enthusiasm for the role, saying:

“I was attracted to this position as it felt like a convergence of my professional skills, experiences, and passions bundled into a single role. Having worked across both sectors, I understand the vital role that collaboration plays in shaping a strong, resilient economy.

The Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, and Kangaroo Island region is changing significantly, and I aim to ensure this change is strategically planned with a focus on economic resilience and preserving the lifestyle we all love.”

*~ David Ridley, Economic Development Officer, RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island*

**Media contact**

**Steve Shotton**

Director of Regional Development

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island

**M:** 0407 713 239

**E:** <mailto:stephens@rdahc.com.au>