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ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

RDA AHFKI Welcomes New Chair as James Sexton Concludes Tenure

March 2023

The Board of **Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island** (RDA AHFKI) is entering a new chapter of leadership, with Victoria MacKirdy appointed as Chair following the conclusion of James Sexton's tenure at the end of March 2023. James has served on the board since 2015 and has been instrumental in championing economic growth and regional development across the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, and Kangaroo Island.

Victoria's appointment, made by the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, The Hon Kristy McBain MP, reflects her extensive experience and dedication to the region. Having served on the RDA AHFKI Board as Deputy Chair for several years, Victoria brings a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing local communities.

RDA AHFKI extends its gratitude to James for his exceptional leadership over the past decade. His contributions have strengthened the organisation's ability to advocate for local industries and drive impactful initiatives. As a gesture of appreciation, the Board and staff recently presented James with a farewell gift of exotic trees, in recognition for his service and passion for gardening.

As RDA AHFKI moves forward under Ms MacKirdy's leadership, the organisation remains committed to fostering sustainable economic growth and advocating the needs of the region.

QUOTES:

"I congratulate new and returning RDA chairs, who will work closely with their community, local businesses and all levels of government to drive growth and development in their regions.

With more than \$117 million from the Australian Government set to flow across all of the RDA committees over the next five years, it is an exciting time for the new and returning chairs, as they'll have the opportunity to work with their members to set the future agendas for their RDAs.

We recognise the importance of local leaders supporting our work to Build Australia's Future, which is why I look forward to working with RDAs into the future."

~ THE HON. KRISTY McBAIN, MP, FEDERAL MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Congratulations to Victoria on her well-deserved appointment as Chair of RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island. It has been a pleasure working alongside her, and I have no doubt she will do an outstanding job leading the organisation.

My time as Chair and board member has been both exciting and rewarding. Together, we have built a strong board with a diverse mix of business leaders, government professionals, and industry experts. As Victoria takes on this role, I wish her and the entire team every success for the future."

~ JAMES SEXTON, CHAIR, RDA AHFKI

"I am honoured to take on the role of Chair for Regional Development Australia - Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, as a long-time Fleurieu Peninsula resident, a local government leader, and former primary producer, I am deeply passionate about this incredible region - its people, industries, townships, and its unique environment.

I have seen firsthand the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Our region is home to a strong tourism sector, thriving agricultural industries, and innovative businesses, all of which contribute to a dynamic and strong economy.

Collaboration will be key as we navigate emerging challenges and embrace new opportunities to strengthen our region for future generations. I am committed to advocating for the needs of this region and ensuring we build a sustainable and prosperous future."

~ VICTORIA MacKIRDY, DEPUTY CHAIR, RDA AHFKI

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>