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ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND KANGAROO ISLAND

For immediate release

RDA AHFKI Helps Drought-Affected Businesses with Free Mentoring

September 2025

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) is rolling out a new Small Business Mentoring Program to support drought-affected businesses across their region.

An initiative of the Government of South Australia's Office for Small and Family Business and funded through the State Government's \$73 million Drought Support Package, the program provides free, one-on-one mentoring delivered locally by Polaris Business Development Centre. It's open to businesses from all sectors affected by drought, whether directly through stock and production losses, or indirectly through reduced trade, late payments, or supply chain disruptions.

Business owners can access a 2.5-hour mentoring session, where experienced mentors provide hands-on guidance across a range of areas, such as:

- managing cashflow and budgets to meet financial commitments
- identifying and reaching new customers or markets
- maintaining staff and workforce stability during tough periods
- strengthening marketing, sales, and digital strategies
- preparing for future risks or pursuing growth opportunities

While the **Small Business Mentoring Program** addresses the immediate impacts of current drought conditions, helping business owners build resilience and plan for the future, it also aligns with strategic priorities identified in RDA AHFKI's **Regional Drought Resilience Plan** published earlier this year. The RDRP highlighted the importance of equipping local businesses with practical tools and guidance to adapt and thrive in a changing environment.

The program will run for two years, or until all places are filled. Applications can be made online at: rdahc.com.au/small-business-mentoring

Current drought conditions are affecting all sorts of businesses, not just our farmers. The Small Business Mentoring program aims to help owners work through immediate challenges, plan ahead, and find ways to keep their business moving forward during tough times. We encourage any local business affected by the drought to take advantage of this free guidance and support to tackle the specific challenges they face in their business.

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