



**Attention: News Editors / Chief of Staff  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## *20 Years Speaking Up for Regional Australia*

Albany and the Great Southern WA will be the rallying point to celebrate 20 Years of Speaking up for Regional Australia. The ***Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA)*** conference was established 20 years ago in response to the sense that the importance of regional Australia in the national agenda was not adequately considered when broader national policy was being formulated. **SEGRA** is now recognised as Australia's most credible, independent voice on issues affecting regional Australia.

"It is important when shaping our national agenda that the place of rural, regional and remote Australia is considered. Regional Australia accounts economically for 1/3 of national output and represents a large portion of Australia's land mass." Said Ms Charters, Chair of the **SEGRA** National Steering Committee.

"In developing national and regional policy governments need to think about regions as places for people, regions as places for people's endeavours and regions as places for resource optimisation and commercial innovation" said Ms Charters.

The **SEGRA** 2016 conference is a forum for people passionate about the future of regional Australia and a place where new ideas can be formed and shared.

Expert's from across Australia will meet to discuss "what the economic and social effects of policy reforms fall on rural and regional Australia including how the effects of policy reform might impact differentially on metropolitan and rural and regional Australia".

However, **SEGRA** is more than a think tank, participants will also be putting forward ways in which people living in regional Australia might act to facilitate the opportunities for people in regional Australia, in particular the unique regional advantages has in innovation, greenfield development, environmental stewardship, and community strength.

**Hosted by** Albany and the Great Southern region of WA, a region with access to rich agricultural assets and a diverse, pristine natural heritage, **SEGRA** 2016 will celebrate regional Australia's natural capacities.

.....ENDS.....

To see the full conference program please visit <http://2016.segra.com.au/program/>

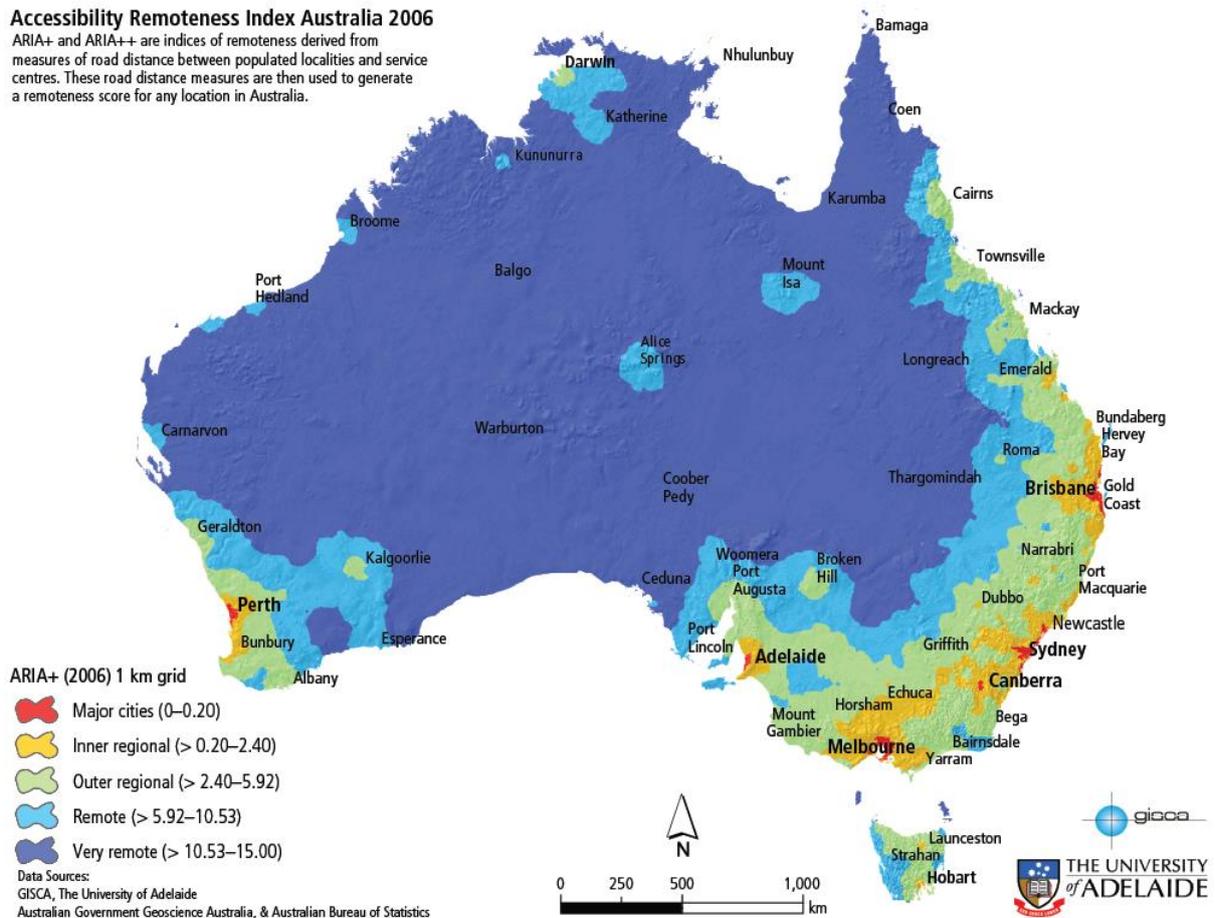
To arrange interviews with speakers please contact Conference Convenor Ms Kate Charters on 0408 882 871.

For general interviews about issues affecting regional Australia please contact Professor Geoff Cockfield, Founding Member of **SEGRA**, 0409 490 073

### Map showing Australia's urban, regional and remote population distribution

#### Accessibility Remoteness Index Australia 2006

ARIA+ and ARIA++ are indices of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres. These road distance measures are then used to generate a remoteness score for any location in Australia.



Source: [http://www3.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/factsheets/2011/fs201103\\_fig1\\_large.png](http://www3.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/factsheets/2011/fs201103_fig1_large.png)



# SEGRA 2016

ALBANY & GREAT SOUTHERN REGION 26-28 OCTOBER 2016

Naturally Stronger Regions, Realising the Potential

## HOST PARTNERS



WITH SUPPORT FROM THE WA NETWORK:

KIMBERLY  
MID WEST GASCOYNE  
GOLDFIELDS / ESPERANCE  
SOUTH WEST  
PILBARA  
WHEATBELT  
PEEL

## SPONSORS



## SUPPORTERS

