

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

28 January 2016

Attention: News Editor

Year for development focus

In 2016, the Great Southern will host two significant forums that will focus on development issues in the region.

Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Chair Peter Rundle said that conferences in February and October 2016 will present opportunities to examine the current and future development settings of both the Great Southern and regional Australia.

On Tuesday 16 February, the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) will present the Future of the Great Southern conference in Albany.

Broader regional development issues will be canvassed at the Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) conference from 26 to 28 October.

“The Commission welcomes the CEDA and SEGRA events as part of its commitment to bringing innovative ideas, backed by sound analysis, to the economic development of the region,” Mr Rundle said.

“Strategic directions set in the *Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint* are a guide to addressing the region’s opportunities and challenges.

“Directions for development in this region will receive close attention at the CEDA conference in February, and the Great Southern issues can then be set against a national perspective at the SEGRA event in October.”

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman will deliver the keynote address at the CEDA conference, which will be held at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

Mr Redman will be followed by a series of speakers who will address issues in community development, infrastructure and future industries.

Details are available at www.ceda.com.au.

SEGRA is Australia’s premier national conference on regional issues.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

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The SEGRA conference was secured for Albany and the Great Southern by a partnership between the GSDC and regional organisations.

The regional partners include the City of Albany, Regional Development Australia Great Southern, RDA WA network, Shires of Cranbrook, Denmark, Plantagenet, Katanning, Broomehill-Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Jerramungup, UWA Albany, Southern Ports Authority – Albany Port, Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry, South Coast Natural Resource Management, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Denmark Chamber of Commerce and the Great Southern Institute of Technology.

SEGRA was set up 20 years ago as a forum to explore issues affecting regional, rural and remote Australia, and to promote positive sustainable outcomes to ensure future prosperity.

Its annual conference attracts key decision-makers from industry, community organisations and all levels of government.

Mr Rundle said the 2016 conference theme was ‘Naturally Stronger Regions: Realising the Potential’.

“The theme will provide for robust discussion around a number of factors that will drive growth in the Great Southern and regional Australia over the coming decades,” Mr Rundle said.

Topics will include national regional policy, sustainability, leadership, digital disruption, labour markets and education.

Speakers will be announced closer to the conference.

Further information is available at www.segra.com.au.

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