



## The Hon Nola Marino MP

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Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories  
Federal Member for Forrest

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### RDA FAR WEST SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of RDA Far West in supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Led by Chair Cr David Gallagher APM, RDA Far West's engagement with their community, businesses and all levels of Government has been vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

This work is important to managing impacts and ensuring communities and businesses are able to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Key activities being undertaken by RDA Far West include:

- Developing videos to highlight the region's businesses and sporting groups, to talk about their activities during the lockdown and to encourage locals to remain engaged with their communities;
- Surveying businesses in the region to learn about the impacts of the pandemic, including current and perceived issues, required support, and cash flow concerns; and
- Engaging with the community and businesses to provide assistance, advice and guidance, including updating the *Far West Proud* website to include information about the support that is available from all three levels of government.

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) have played and continue to play an important role in delivering sustainable infrastructure and services to their region. These Committees deliver important work in consulting with communities, promoting and participating in regional initiatives, and providing information and advice on their region to all levels of Government.

Since late March I have been holding regular teleconferences with RDA representatives three times a week. These conversations provided first-hand insights into how local communities are coping, and the impact and effectiveness of Government response measures. This local intelligence is provided directly to Government ministers and agencies to inform policymaking.

I want to thank the RDA Far West committee members and staff for their work in driving positive change in your local communities.

If you would like to learn more about how RDA Far West is able to assist you, visit its website at [www.rdafarwestnsw.org.au](http://www.rdafarwestnsw.org.au).

Further information about the RDA program is available at [www.rda.gov.au](http://www.rda.gov.au).