



17 August 2017

Secretariat
Regional Development and Decentralisation Committee
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA SA 2600

Dear Committee

Re: Submission into Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation

We welcome the opportunity to provide you with a written submission into the Terms of Reference and reporting requirements for the establishment of a select committee, to be known as the Select committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation.

Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland Inc (RDAMR) is the primary economic development agency for a region that is home to some 70,600 people and over 6,100 businesses, and which generates an economic output of \$3.6b per annum. Situated on the main transport routes to the eastern States and to Adelaide, the Murraylands and Riverland region is located in South Australia along the Murray River to the Victorian border. It includes the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and the South Australian Murray Mallee and extends south along The Coorong.

The key competitive advantages of the region are its successful primary industry base, its proximity to Adelaide, its location on key intra- and interstate freight routes, its access to water and proven irrigation efficiency practices, low cost land for housing and industry, and its strong reputation as a tourism destination.

RDAMR would emphasise the importance of gaining on-the-ground experience and expertise, which we believe can make better policy decisions. We are encouraged that the Terms of Reference seek to:

1. Ratify 'best practice' approaches from both the domestic and international perspective;
2. Identify key characteristics which can then be applied to a range of other circumstances;
3. Draw insights that help us attract and retain skilled labour to regional areas. This is of particular relevance to our region.

In closing, we thank you again for the opportunity to submit a formal comment on the Terms of Reference and look forward to being kept informed of the committee's progress.

We do not object to our submission being made public.

Jo Podoliak
Chief Executive Officer