

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0535\_13

**Senator McKenzie provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Regional Education, Skills and Jobs plans**

1. Have the plans been updated to reflect the impact of the carbon tax, especially for impacted areas such as Gippsland? DEEWR's website also says that "The Plans are living and responsive documents that will be revisited throughout their implementation to ensure they respond to emergent issues and opportunities or changing community or government priorities in regional Australia." Please provide some Victorian examples of how the plans have been updated to reflect changing circumstance since being first drafted.
2. Please outline how achievements against the plans are measured and list some of the achievements resulting from work undertaken to implement the plans in Victoria. Please include specific examples relevant to Loddon-Mallee.
3. What funding do RESJ coordinators have to implement projects to attain RESJ goals?
4. Please outline the RESJ Coordinators consultation with the community in developing the Loddon-Mallee RESJ Plan.

The Loddon-Mallee RESJ references 'further work' to assist communities to prepare for the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. How exactly do the Victorian RESJ Coordinators work with the Regional Employment Coordinators? Please provide an example including Loddon-Mallee and Bendigo-Ballarat.

**Answer**

**Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plans**

1. *Have the plans been updated to reflect the impact of the carbon tax, especially for impacted areas such as Gippsland? DEEWR's website also says that "The Plans are living and responsive documents that will be revisited throughout their implementation to ensure they respond to emergent issues and opportunities or changing community or government priorities in regional Australia." Please provide some Victorian examples of how the plans have been updated to reflect changing circumstance since being first drafted.*

The RESJ Plans were published on the [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au) website on 4 September 2012 and the [www.myregion.gov.au](http://www.myregion.gov.au) website on 10 September 2012.

They have not been updated since publication, however they will be reviewed and updated as needed, having regard to any significant changes in local circumstances.

*2. Please outline how achievements against the plans are measured and list some of the achievements resulting from work undertaken to implement the plans in Victoria. Please include specific examples relevant to Loddon-Mallee.*

The RESJ initiative is being evaluated both at the measure level, and as part of the broader Building Australia's Future Workforce (BAFW) evaluation. DEEWR will be assessing outcomes on the basis of regular RESJ Coordinator reports on strategy implementation, case studies that demonstrate quantitative outcomes achieved and stakeholder feedback on the initiative. The evaluation will also consider interaction with other BAFW measures, such as the contribution that RESJ Coordinators are making to the Better Futures, Local Solutions measures.

Some achievements resulting from work undertaken to implement the plans in Victoria (including Loddon Mallee) include:

- 56 people were placed in employment following a month-long skills and jobs drive in Benalla in May 2012 by the Hume RESJ Coordinator. The Coordinator worked in conjunction with the North Eastern Local Employment Coordinator on a similar drive in Shepparton during November 2012, which resulted in 102 people being placed in employment.
- The Hume RESJ Coordinator worked with Wodonga TAFE to achieve better retention of apprentices. As a result of this project 100 per cent of the 75 apprentices remain enrolled as at November 2012.
- The Loddon Mallee RESJ Coordinator collaborated with local stakeholders in Robinvale, including an education provider, community organisations and employment agencies, to organise training in horticultural skills for 14 disadvantaged job seekers, including Indigenous, youth and long-term unemployed. As of November 2012, five trainees have been placed into jobs.
- The Loddon Mallee RESJ Coordinator brought together industry partners, employers and training organisations to train around 100 people in core skills that are transferrable across the hospitality, wine and olive industries, also known as the Food and Beverages Skills Passport.

### RESJ Coordinators

#### **3. What funding do RESJ coordinators have to implement projects to attain RESJ goals?**

As part of the RESJ initiative, funding of \$1,326,000 over three years is available to facilitate the effective engagement with the local community in the development and implementation of the plans.

### Loddon Mallee RESJ Plan

#### **4. Please outline the RESJ Coordinators consultation with the community in developing the Loddon-Mallee RESJ Plan.**

A range of key community, education sector, industry, Regional Development Australia (RDA) and local and state government stakeholders across the region were consulted in the development of the Loddon Mallee RESJ Plan.

A list of these stakeholders is provided on page 27 of the Plan, available from [www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/RESJ/Documents/LoddonMallee.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/RESJ/Documents/LoddonMallee.pdf).

### RESJ Coordinators working with Local Employment Coordinators

#### **5. The Loddon-Mallee RESJ references 'further work' to assist communities to prepare for the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. How exactly do the Victorian RESJ Coordinators work with the Regional Employment Coordinators? Please provide an example including Loddon-Mallee and Bendigo-Ballarat.**

In responding to this part of the question DEEWR has taken the reference to 'Regional Employment Coordinators' to mean Local Employment Coordinators (LECs). DEEWR has engaged LECs in each of the 20 priority employment areas across Australia, four of which are in Victoria. Further information on the Priority Employment Area initiative is available from <http://deewr.gov.au/priority-employment-area-initiative>.

Where the geographical boundaries overlap, RESJ Coordinators and LECs work together to maximise outcomes, as their roles are complementary.

Examples of collaboration include:

- The Loddon Mallee RESJ Coordinator supported the LEC in delivering the Maryborough Jobs and Skills Expo by promoting the event and representing DEEWR at the Expo.
- The Grampians RESJ Coordinator worked collaboratively with the LEC in their delivery of a Career Employment Expo in the priority employment area. The Expo encouraged the recruitment and up-skilling of the existing workforce in Ararat.