



REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE SHARED INQUIRY PROGRAM 2018

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is leading an inquiry program to target the issues that matter to both policy makers and our regions, with support from the Australian Government and all State and Territory Governments with regional responsibilities.



SHARED INQUIRY PROGRAM

INQUIRY 2: THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL JOBS

Global labour markets are being increasingly affected by the introduction of new technologies and the structural changes associated with the decline in full-time jobs and the rise of part-time and casual work in the Gig economy. Countries around the world are grappling with the economic and social impact of these dislocations and what they mean for communities.

The projects below will help to determine the impact these changes will have on regions, and how we can best help to address their needs.



PROJECT 1 (MAJOR PROJECT): FUTURE JOBS AND REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The topic of the future of work raises concerning questions; which jobs are most impacted by automation? Which regions are likely to be the most affected and will they be able to respond to these changes? At the same time, which regions are proactively identifying innovative strategies to prepare their workforce for the transition to the new types of jobs which will be created, and how can places expand their local skills base to take advantage of those jobs? What does this mean for regional education as well as training and reskilling of the current workforce?

This project seeks to answer the questions above, at the regional and local level, to better inform government and communities in responding to the future of work. It will also develop tools that can assist regions identify their levels of risk so they can identify and implement appropriate strategies to prepare their local communities.





PROJECT 2: RURAL MIGRATION

Many regions, particularly rural communities, are grappling with a shrinking pool of labour to fill local jobs. If roles cannot be filled, the future of entire communities hang in the balance. Stronger permanent migration strategies are clearly the best response to these issues.

This project will better understand the positive impact migrants have on their respective communities, and suggest policy options to government that could facilitate increased secondary migration to regional communities.



PROJECT 3: GROWTH PROSPECTS—AGRIBUSINESS, TOURISM, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, MANUFACTURING

Agribusiness and tourism are predicted to be crucial drivers of job growth in many regions over the coming decades. Manufacturing is an industry in decline in terms of overall employment but is continuing to evolve with technology, which will reshape regional economies. Creative industries are indicators of people with innovative potential, which can support growth in other industries.

This project will investigate how regions are positioned to take advantage of potential growth in these industries, and suggest ways communities and governments can strengthen their position to take full advantage of those opportunities.

For more detailed information on the *Future of Regional Jobs* inquiry projects, please contact Jude Walker on 02 6260 3733 or jude.walker@regionalaustralia.org.au

