

EXECUTIVE CHANGE AT THE REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) today announced Su McCluskey will be stepping down from her role as CEO at the end of June to pursue other opportunities. Ms McCluskey is the RAI's inaugural CEO and has been pivotal in establishing the Institute as the authoritative voice of regional Australia.

The RAI Board has appointed the Institute's Deputy CEO, Jack Archer, to the position of CEO, commencing on 1 July 2015.

Chair of the RAI, Mal Peters OAM, recognised Ms McCluskey for her accomplishment in strengthening the Institute's foundation as the leading force of research and advocacy for regional Australia.

"On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank Su for the incredible energy and commitment she has given to the organisation," said Mr Peters. "Su has steered the RAI into a strong position with a powerful body of research and policy work achieved and valuable relationships established around the country."

"Jack's broad experience with the RAI and regional issues make him the ideal candidate to build on Su's legacy and lead the RAI into the future." Mr Peters concluded.

In her three years with the RAI, Ms McCluskey has worked tirelessly to put regional Australia into the mainstream public debate, challenging regional policy makers to rethink their traditional 'one-size-fits-all' approach.

Among her notable contributions as CEO, Ms McCluskey led the RAI in the development of Australia's first regional competitiveness index, *[In]Sight*, which provides government, corporate, regional leaders and the community with online, sophisticated, data and analysis for every region.

Ms McCluskey's appointment as a panel member to the Harper Review of competition policy was the first time regional Australia has been represented on a national agenda of such significance, highlighting Ms McCluskey's high regard and influence in the policy sphere.

Ms McCluskey has recently been appointed to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. She will continue to support the RAI as a special advisor in the short term.

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About the Regional Australia Institute

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is an independent policy think tank and research organisation. It's the vital link between research, policy and implementation.

The RAI advocates for change to build a stronger economy and better quality of life in regional Australia – for the benefit of all Australians.

For more information on the RAI go to www.regionalaustralia.org.au

To organise an interview please contact:
Rachel Barry OPF Consulting
Rachel@opfconsulting.com.au 0448 216 676