



REGIONS RISING
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Regions Rising SA PROGRAM



**REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA**
INSTITUTE

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Golding Wines
Adelaide Hills, SA

Regions Rising National Series Partners





About

THE RAI

THE REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE IS THE NATION'S FIRST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT THINK TANK DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING OUR REGIONS TO THRIVE.

With the benefit of more than a decade of research into the most fundamental parts of regional living, in 2022 the RAI developed a 10-year framework to guide regional Australia's growth. *The Regionalisation Ambition 2032 – A Framework to Rebalance the Nation* charts 20 goals across five pillars: **Population; Jobs & Skills; Liveability; Productivity & Innovation; Sustainability & Resilience**. At the heart of the plan is a target to increase regional Australia's population to 11 million by 2032 – up from 9.4 million today.

The work of the Institute is made possible through research partnerships with Federal and State governments, philanthropic funding and our members. Our members include Australia's leading businesses with influence and impact in regional Australia and grass roots organisations including local government associations and economic development organisations. The RAI exists to provide decision-makers at all levels of government, industry and community the information they need to ensure the best outcomes for regional Australia.

Regions Rising EVENT SERIES

REGIONS RISING IS RAI'S FLAGSHIP NATIONAL EVENT SERIES WHERE WE TAKE OUR RESEARCH AROUND THE COUNTRY TO SHARE THE RAI'S INSIGHTS AND DATA ON THE MATTERS MOST CRITICAL TO REGIONAL AUSTRALIANS.

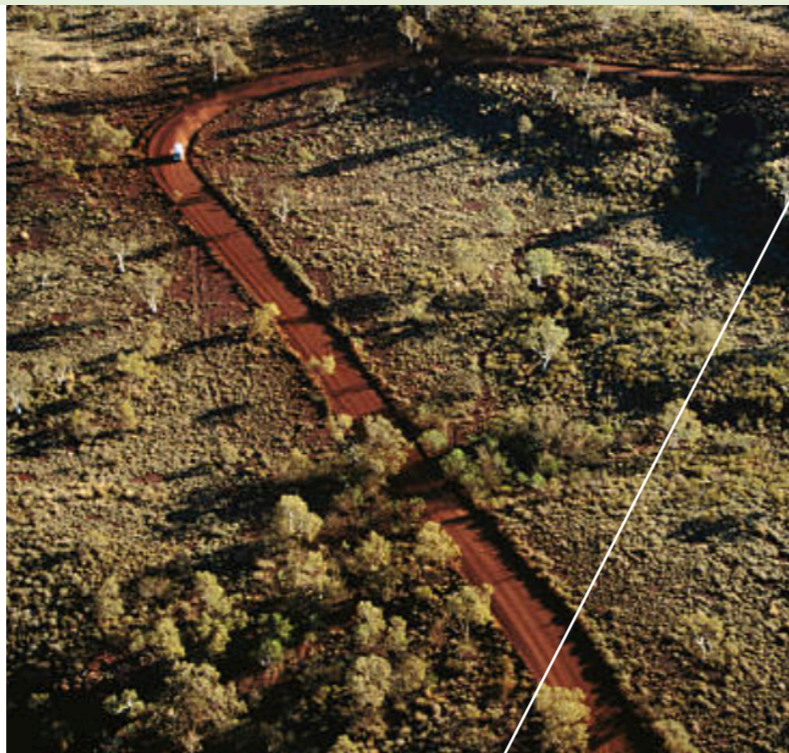
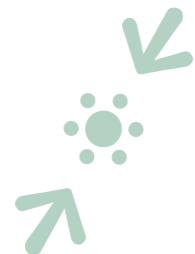
Regions Rising is an engagement program, made up of in-person and virtual events, through which the RAI presents its research on regional issues to promote dialogue and thought leadership.

The Regions Rising event series brings together industry experts, economists, regional leaders, government, political leaders, academics and the community sector to deliver the latest information on the key pillars affecting regional communities - including **jobs and skills, housing, population, liveability, productivity and innovation and sustainability and resilience**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

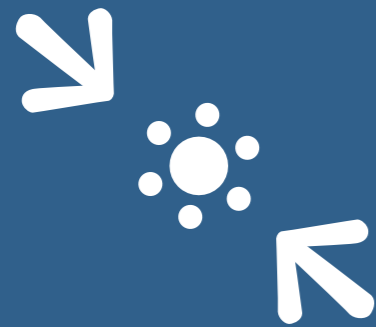
The Regional Australia Institute acknowledges all Traditional Custodians across this vast land.

We respect Elders past and present and are grateful for the enrichment such living cultures bring to our lives.



DATA AND INSIGHT ON THE MATTERS MOST CRITICAL TO REGIONAL AUSTRALIANS





Regions Rising

SA PROGRAM

The Regions Rising South Australia program features engaging keynote addresses from the regions' politicians, inspiring thought leaders and changemakers. Our panels will address the key pillars of the RAI's Framework to 'Rebalance the Nation', telling the stories of the regions' challenges, success stories and provide guests with a wealth of knowledge to help drive change for communities and businesses.



TIME	DURATION	OVERVIEW
8.30 AM	30 mins	Registration opens
9.00 AM	5 mins	Welcome and housekeeping Cassandra Hough - ABC Journalist and Host of SA Country Hour (MC)
9.05 AM	10 mins	Welcome to Country Ivan Tiwu Copley OAM - Kurna Elder
9.15 AM	5 mins	Welcome to Adelaide Hills Lucy Huxter - Elected Member of the Valleys Ward, Adelaide Hills Council
9.20 AM	20 mins	Keynote Address The Hon Clare Scriven MLC - Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries
9.40 AM	10 mins	Q&A
9.50 AM	25 mins	RAI Keynote Address Liz Ritchie - CEO, Regional Australia Institute
10.15 AM	10 mins	Q&A
10.25 AM	50 mins	Panel 1: Net Zero – Preparing South Australia for the transition Facilitator: Cassandra Hough - ABC Journalist and Host of SA Country Hour (MC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon. David Speirs MP - Leader of the Opposition and Member for Black Richard Day - Director Strategy, Policy and Communications, Growth and Low Carbon Division, Office of Hydrogen Power SA Caroline Rhodes - CEO, Primary Producers SA Dave McKeon - Thomas Elder Sustainable Agriculture, Elders Jeremy Maslin - Energy and Strategic Partnerships Executive, Katanning Energy
11.20 AM	25 mins	MORNING TEA
11.45 AM	20 mins	Keynote Address Stephen Smith - General Manager, Sustainability, NBN Co.
12.00 AM	10 mins	Q&A
12.10 PM	55 mins	Panel 2: The workforce challenge – Filling the jobs of the future Facilitator: Kelly-Anne Saffin, CEO, Regional Development Australia SA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Cameron Baker - Chair, South Australian Skills Commissioner Mark Glazbrook - CEO, Migration Solutions Tayla Roberts - SA Youth Ambassador Leanne Hill - Employment Facilitator, Adelaide South Region, Workforce Australia
1.05 PM	60 mins	LUNCH
2.05 PM	25 mins	Regional Housing Summit overview Laureta Wallace - Director – External Affairs, Regional Australia Institute
2.30 PM	50 mins	Panel 3: Housing in regional Australia Facilitator: Caela Griffin, State Real Estate Manager, Elders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt Hunt - Director, Office for Regional Housing Kym Morgan - Director – Communications & Policy, Master Builders Association of SA Tom Davies - General Manager – Strategy and Investment, Thomas Foods International
3.20 PM	5 mins	Closing Remarks

Meet the SPEAKERS



Cassandra Hough (MC)

ABC JOURNALIST AND HOST OF SA COUNTRY HOUR



From the droughts and droving of south-western Queensland to sipping wine in South Australia's McLaren Vale wine region, Cassandra Hough wants to see all rural Australia has to offer.

Growing up on a grazing property on the North West Slopes of New South Wales, her love of rural life was cemented at an early age.

After spending time in the city studying a Bachelor of Journalism at the University of Queensland, Cassandra also finished a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in political science and history, and took the opportunity study in Denmark as well.

Keen to explore all regional Australia has to offer she has worked in Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales as a print and television journalist but given it's hard to stop her talking, rural radio is where she has found her calling.

Lucy Huxter

ELECTED MEMBER OF THE VALLEYS WARD, ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL



Lucy Huxter is a Lobethal local, elected to the Valleys Ward of the Adelaide Hills Council in November 2022. Lucy has built her career in government relations, stakeholder engagement and strategic communications. With two young children, Lucy's motivation to run for local Council was to set a good example and make an impact within her community for future generations to benefit from. Lucy enjoys being part of local community groups and sports clubs, engaging with people who are also trying to inspire change, and making sure the Adelaide Hills is the best place to live, raise a family and do business.

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES



Clare Scriven was raised in Mount Gambier and returned to the region with her family after living and working in Adelaide for some years.

Clare is committed to regional development, improving educational opportunities, supporting small business, and promoting the importance of primary industries sectors.

Prior to entering Parliament in 2018, Clare's career spanned forest industries, human resources, government policy and service delivery.

Clare's post-graduate studies in management and business have complemented her diverse working background.

Clare is passionate about regional communities. As a member of the Legislative Council, she represents all South Australians.

She and her husband, Gerard, have six children.

Stephen Smith

GENERAL MANAGER – SUSTAINABILITY, NBN CO.



Stephen Smith is an engineering professional with over 18 years of experience across a variety of international markets in the real-estate, infrastructure, and telecommunication sectors. As a senior executive people leader, Stephen has experience leading and managing teams across the portfolios of Sustainability, Energy, Environment, Health, Safety and Quality.

As General Manager – Sustainability since 2021, Stephen leads and coordinates the sustainability program at NBN Co. Stephen provides strategic advice, technical leadership, and program governance for sustainability, creating sustainable value for NBN Co's stakeholders.

Stephen has also been a member of the World Green Building Council Corporate Advisory Board, BCO ESG Committee, UK Green Building Council Leaders Network, IOSH Global Business Leaders Forum and a founding member of Building Responsibly – an initiative to promote the rights and welfare of workers in the engineering and construction industry. Since returning to Australia, Stephen has recently joined the Chief Sustainability Officer Network facilitated by EY.

Stephen is a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP), LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP), a Fellow of the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (FIIRSM) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

Liz Ritchie

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE



The daughter of a farmer who grew up amongst the rice crops and river redgums around Deniliquin in south-western New South Wales, Liz Ritchie's had a lifelong affiliation with regional Australia. As CEO of the Regional Australia Institute her purpose is to empower regions to thrive through leadership, activation, and impact. Liz firmly believes that by replacing myth and stereotype with facts and knowledge, the RAI can help build a bridge between city and country Australians.

She spearheaded the development of the Regionalisation Ambition – a framework to 'rebalance the nation' by driving a parity of population between the regions and cities. Prior to joining the RAI, Liz worked for Westpac and the Committee for Economic Development of Australia.

Laureta Wallace

DIRECTOR – EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE



Laureta Wallace has a lifelong affiliation with regional Australia. She is passionate about creating a vibrant and sustainable future for Australia, outside of city limits.

Laureta is the Move to More campaign manager and is the RAI's Director – External Affairs.



NET ZERO: PREPARING SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THE TRANSITION

The Hon. David Speirs MP

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND MEMBER FOR BLACK



David Speirs was elected as the Leader of the Opposition in South Australia after the 2022 election.

At the same election, his community voted to return him to serve as Member for Black for another term.

David was South Australia's Minister for Environment and Water and the Marshall Liberal Government's Cabinet Secretary between March 2018 and March 2022. He became the state's youngest minister and one of the youngest in South Australia's history.

He has been a Member of Parliament since his election at the age of 29 in 2014. First serving as Member for Bright, and then as Member for Black following the 2018 election. His seat is located in Adelaide's southern suburbs covering suburbs such as Hallett Cove, Sheidow Park and Marino.

Prior to David's election to parliament he served as a local councillor on Marion Council between 2010 and 2014, also serving in the role of Deputy Mayor for 2011-2013.

Richard Day

DIRECTOR STRATEGY, POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS, GROWTH AND LOW CARBON DIVISION, OFFICE OF HYDROGEN POWER SA



Richard Day joined the South Australian Government in 2001 and since that time has worked across the energy, climate change and industry portfolios.

Since 2016 his mission has been to capture the economic growth and decarbonisation opportunities associated with South Australia's clean energy transformation, in particular renewables, energy storage, hydrogen and electric vehicles.

In March 2023 Richard joined the Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia in the role of Director Industry Development.

Dave McKeon

HEAD, THOMAS ELDER SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Dave McKeon is the Head of Elders newly created Innovation venture Thomas Elder Sustainable Agriculture, where he leads innovation activities across major themes such as research and extension, new products and services, agetch, sustainability services and carbon farming.

An active contributor to initiatives and organisations that deliver value to Australian farmers and regional communities, Dave is passionate about the role innovation plays in ensuring sustainable farm production and agribusiness in Australia.

As a recognised industry leader, Dave's previous roles have included CEO of Grain Growers Ltd, senior management positions in the National Farmers' Federation and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture. With a background in farm management and with family farming interests in western NSW, Dave has also served on a wide range of senior industry and government advisory committees.

Jeremy Maslin

ENERGY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS EXECUTIVE, KATANNING ENERGY



Jeremy Maslin has over 25 years of work in the energy and public policy area and is the Founder and Managing Director of LOOP Energy Management Pty Ltd (2017).

Prior to this, Jeremy was the Co-Founder and General Manager of Global Sustainability Initiatives Pty Ltd and was with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) as Manager Strategic Partnership and Australian Manager Cities for Climate Protection™ and Victorian Manager Cities for Climate Protection™.

Jeremy has specialised in creating programs to address market failures and worked with all levels of government in Australia – federal, state and local; large corporation, small to medium businesses and community groups. He is also engaged to deliver projects, from design and construct, through to retrofits of existing buildings. Jeremy's work has been recognised by Economic Development Australia for innovation; Engineers Australia for project management and Climateworks Australia for strategy.

Caroline Rhodes

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PRIMARY PRODUCERS SA



Caroline Rhodes has a deep and enduring commitment to advancing rural industry. She serves as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the peak industry body, Primary Producers SA, and has more than 20 years experience working in the agribusiness sector.

In July 2021, Caroline was appointed to the South Australian Skills Commission and currently Chairs the Industry Skills Council for Agribusiness, Food & Wine/Beverages. Her current board appointments include the South Australian Cricket Association and Foodbank South Australia.

Caroline holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, a Master of Agribusiness and a Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.



THE WORKFORCE CHALLENGE: FILLING THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE

Commissioner Cameron Baker
CHAIR, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SKILLS COMMISSION



Commissioner Cameron Baker has more than 20 years' experience in the Vocational Education and Training sector. He was appointed as South Australia's Skills Commissioner in July 2023.

Economic, social policy and workplace safety imperatives underpin Cameron's work, which sees him engage daily with industry associations, employer bodies, unions and training organisations.

As the former Acting Victorian Skills Commissioner, Head of Apprenticeships Victoria, Deputy CEO of Manufacturing Skills Australia and General Manager – Skills and Engagement at the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC), he is well-versed in the regulatory and training needs of existing and emerging industries.

An accomplished strategic operator, Cameron was also a Commercial Director at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and held various educationally-focused appointments over 10 years of service with the Department of Defence.

Mark Glazbrook
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MIGRATION SOLUTIONS



Mark Glazbrook is CEO of Migration Solutions. He has been a trusted voice of the migration profession for over 20 years, commonly quoted in the media as a commentator and strong advocate for immigration reform. He established his professional practice in Adelaide in 2001 and has grown Migration Solutions to become the largest migration agency in South Australia, providing guidance, advice, information or support services to over 35,000 people.

Being involved in the migration profession since 1998 and a registered Migration Agent since 2001, Mark has significant experience and expertise in the provision of immigration assistance in Australia. This has also led to an in-depth understanding of the Migration Act 1958 and the Migration Agents Regulations 1998.

As a passionate advocate for migration reform and the strategic implications migration has on economic and industry growth, Mark consults to individual applicants, families, business, industry, regions and government on pathways to achieve their goals through the Australian migration program. This has included facilitating industry round table discussions between business / industry associations / regional development / state government, on multiple occasions, including during the development of the South Australian (SA) Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA). He has championed independent research on the relationship between economic growth and immigration, using results to address state and federal governments, politicians, and departments, about a range of migration issues.

Tayla Roberts
SA YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Tayla Roberts is a member of the Ministerial Reference Group for the Australian Universities Accord. Her upbringing in the small town of Streaky Bay, South Australia, 700 kilometres west of Adelaide, has led to her advocacy as a rural student. She became a Rural Youth Ambassador in 2020 and has worked as an intern in the leadership program throughout 2022 and 2023, empowering rural year 11 students to advocate for change in their rural schools whilst developing their capacity as young leaders. In 2022 she relocated to Adelaide to commence her studies in medicine at Flinders University. She has since been a passionate advocate for the interests of all rural students across Australia by addressing the inequities experienced by regional, rural and remote young people.

Leanne Hill
EMPLOYMENT FACILITATOR - ADELAIDE SOUTH REGION, WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA



As an Employment Facilitator with the Local Jobs program, Leanne has an extensive history of working closely with companies undergoing growth, transformation or closure. Skilled in strategic planning, communication, management, talent acquisition and performance management with experience in both public and private sectors. Leanne has tertiary qualifications in psychology, social work and public policy, and a strong understanding of labour market conditions in SA. This, coupled with a strong knowledge of employment and training needs ensure an informed approach to the challenges faced by both employees and those wishing to enter the jobs market.

Facilitator: Kelly-Anne Saffin
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RDA ADELAIDE



Kelly-Anne Saffin joined RDA Adelaide late 2022 after spending the previous 10 years as CEO of Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North where she was responsible for the leadership and management of the board and the delivery of its key strategic goals and strategies. Her achievements are many, having assisted with the facilitation of over \$322 million worth of investment in the region and over \$41 million in infrastructure; hosting business workshops and dinners for thousands of participants; establishing the Mid North Knowledge Partnership with key partner Flinders University; assisting local councils; and delivering through hundreds of thousands of hours of training and thousands of employment outcomes, through her workforce team. Her background also encompasses State Government (DTED) and other Regional Development roles in the Limestone Coast, Barossa & Light and Mid North and Eyre Peninsula.

She is truly an economic development specialist.



HOUSING IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Matt Hunt

DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR REGIONAL HOUSING



Matt Hunt, a proud South Australian with deep roots in the country, is enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to unlocking the vast potential for growth and prosperity in regional South Australia.

Transitioning from agricultural pursuits to finance, Matt pursued studies in finance at Adelaide University in the late 1990s. Subsequently, he spent a decade in the banking sector, with stints in Sydney, London, and North America.

Returning to South Australia in 2008, Matt contributed to the delivery of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital for SA Health. His career trajectory shifted to property development in 2016, focusing initially on coordinating projects in the Adelaide Riverbank and CBD area within Renewal SA.

Assuming the role of Director of the Office for Regional Housing presents an exciting opportunity for Matt to leverage his 25 years of experience in addressing the pressing challenge of housing supply in regional South Australia.

Kym Morgan

DIRECTOR – COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY, MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF SA



Kym Morgan is an executive professional of more than 15 years in communications; stakeholder engagement and management; and policy with experience at the most senior levels in the government and corporate sectors.

Kym has many years of senior stakeholder and community engagement experience, and has set stakeholder engagement strategy and managed teams across complex projects, and in government. He has a successful track record of building relationships and collaborating to achieve outcomes that benefit all parties and line up with the social and commercial objectives of his employer. Kym is experienced in engagement with a wide cross section - including Aboriginal engagement, industry and business, unions and the community.

Tom Davies

GENERAL MANAGER – STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT, THOMAS FOODS INTERNATIONAL



Tom is an experienced finance professional, currently General Manager – Strategy and Investment, Thomas Foods International, overseeing rural and feedlot operations, investments and strategy, after serving as CFO of Thomas Foods International Fresh Produce division, a leading domestic and export fresh produce supplier.

Tom has worked extensively internationally and domestically and has over 20 years experience in a range of finance & management disciplines with a primary focus on investment, strategy, data analytics, due diligence, financial reporting, business improvement and turnaround, M&A, and IPOs.

Facilitator: Caela Griffin

STATE REAL ESTATE MANAGER, ELDERS



Caela Griffin is the Elders State Real Estate Manager for SA.

Commencing her real estate career 18 years ago, Caela was a high-performing sales agent, business manager and director in the Northern Territory, before moving to Western Australia to join Defence Housing, leading their WA operations. After a further period as a licensee and general manager of an award-winning franchise in WA, Caela relocated to South Australia in 2022 and joined the Elders Group.

In her role as State Manager, Caela drives business growth through acquisitions, training, and enhanced performance within the state's real estate team of over a 100 staff. Caela is a Licensed Land Agent who has overseen thousands of real estate transactions throughout her career, whilst providing high-level real estate technical expertise to internal and external stakeholders.



regions rising

NATIONAL SERIES PARTNERS



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YOU CAN VIEW A FULL LIST OF REGIONS RISING SOUTH AUSTRALIA ATTENDEES [HERE](#), OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



REGIONS RISING 2024 IS SPONSORED BY NBN CO AND ELDERS, WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR VALUED SUPPORT



CONTACT

Laureta Wallace
Director - External Affairs
t: 02 6260 3733 | m: 0408 448 250
e: Laureta.Wallace@regionalaustralia.org.au

Belinda King
Events Manager
m: 0402 199 347
e: Belinda.King@regionalaustralia.org.au



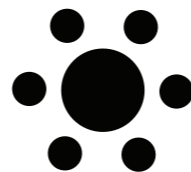
our

MEMBERS

THE WORK OF THE RAI IS SUPPORTED BY OUR MEMBERS, THE REGIONAL AUSTRALIA COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL ACTIVATORS ALLIANCE.

The **Regional Australia Council** is a cohort of the most influential organisations and leaders committed to elevating regional Australia. The Council provides corporate Australia a powerful vehicle to support the development, investment and prosperity of the regions in a collaborative way – that will enhance the lives of one-third of our population.

Local government authorities; Regional Development Australia organisations; and small to medium grassroots business, make up RAI's powerful, **Regional Activator Alliance**. The Alliance is at the forefront of a movement helping to change the perception of the value of living, working, and investing in regional Australia.



REGIONAL ACTIVATORS ALLIANCE



REGIONAL AUSTRALIA COUNCIL





Become an RAI MEMBER



By becoming a member of the RAI you join a cohort of leading organisations committed to elevating regional Australia.

Regional Australia Institute members enjoy all-year around access to RAI's research, insights and thought leadership; discounted tickets to Regions Rising events; preferential access to the RAI's Executive Education Program and much more.

Our membership options are designed to suit the needs of the diverse partners that shape our regions.

**Find out more about
RAI membership**



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