



REGIONS RISING ORANGE

16 NOVEMBER 2023 | BANKSIA ORANGE

REGIONS RISING NATIONAL SERIES PARTNERS



REGIONS RISING NSW EVENT PARTNER

INLAND
RAIL 

ABOUT THE REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is the nation's first and only independent think-tank dedicated to empowering Australia's regions.

We are a not-for-profit organisation that undertakes research to stimulate and activate our rural and regional communities.

RAI celebrated 10 years in 2021. We are proud of the vast array of research, data, and detailed insights the RAI has provided into many of the significant issues and challenges facing regional Australia.

The work of the Institute is made possible through research partnerships with federal and state governments, the national Regions Rising event series, regional consultancy projects, membership, and philanthropic funding.

The RAI exists so that decision-makers at all levels of government, not-for-profits, industry, and community have the information they need to ensure the best outcomes for regional Australia.

By replacing myths and stereotypes with facts and knowledge, the RAI builds bridges between city and country Australians.

We care about the regions, because when our regions are strong, Australia is strong.

ABOUT REGIONS RISING

Regions Rising is the RAI's national event series, running since 2019.

It 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 resilience.





FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Elders is proud to partner with the Regional Australia Institute to help bring to the forefront agenda setting conversations and tangible actions, that advocate for the prosperity and sustainability of the regional and rural communities in which we live, work and grow.



for Australian agriculture



To learn more about how we're investing in our communities through our new Community Giving Project, visit elders.com.au/community or scan the qr code.

REGIONS RISING NSW - PROGRAM

TIME	DURATION	ITEM
8.30 am	30 mins	Registration Opens
9.00 am	5 mins	Welcome and Housekeeping MC: Joanna Woodburn - Senior Reporter, ABC Central West (MC)
9.05 am	10 mins	Welcome to Country Ricky Ah-see
9.15 am	5 mins	Welcome to Orange Cr Jason Hamling - Mayor, Orange City Council
9.20 am	20 mins	Keynote Address The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC - Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW, and Minister for Western NSW
9.40 am	10 mins	QandA
9.50 am	25 mins	The Regional Australia Institute Address Liz Ritchie - CEO, The Regional Australia Institute
10.15 am	10 mins	QandA
10.25 am	55 mins	Panel 1 – Liveability <i>Facilitator:</i> <i>Robert Hardie - Executive Manager Agriculture and Health, Regional and Remote, nbn Co.</i> Greg Sam - CEO, Royal Flying Doctor Service, South Eastern section Maddy Butler - Campaign Director, The Parenthood Kayla Henley - Australian artist Ricky Alogo - Implementation Manager, Step Up Financial Group
11.20 am	20 mins	MORNING TEA
11.40 am	15 mins	Keynote Address Cliff Bingham - Assistant Secretary, Jobs and Skills Australia
11.55 am	10 mins	QandA
12.05 pm	55 mins	Panel 2 – Jobs and Skills <i>Facilitator:</i> <i>Tig Armstrong - Program Manager, Work + Stay</i> Kevin McGuire - CEO, Wangarag Industries Ltd Josie Howard - Director, Regional NSW Essential Worker Program Damien O'Donnell - Client Director, Spinifex Recruiting Philip Dodds - Executive Director, Phocas Software Anthony Dawson - Employment Facilitator, Workforce Australia Local Jobs
1.00 pm	15 mins	Keynote Address Guy Webb - Head of Global Agronomy and Co-Founder, Loam Bio
1.15 pm	10 mins	QandA
1.25 pm	45 mins	LUNCH
2.05 pm	25 mins	In Conversation with Anna Bennett - Executive General Manager Strategy, Sustainability and Innovation, Elders Limited Laureta Wallace - Director External Affairs, Regional Australia Institute (RAI)
2.30 pm	50 mins	Panel 3 – Sustainability and Resilience <i>Facilitator:</i> <i>Joanna Woodburn - Senior Reporter, ABC Central West</i> Karen Smith-Pomeroy - Board Member, National Reconstruction Fund and Chair, Regional Investment Corporation Justin Jarrett - See Saw Organic Wines Nicky Tracey - GM Community and Stakeholder Engagement, Australia Post Johanna Marsh - Acting General Manager Strategy and Corporate Affairs, Inland Rail
3.20 pm	5 mins	Closing Remarks MC: Joanna Woodburn - Senior Reporter, ABC Central West (MC)

Program correct at time of printing.

REGIONS RISING - MC



JOANNA WOODBURN
SENIOR REPORTER - ABC CENTRAL WEST

Joanna is a reporter with ABC News. She's originally from Scotland and grew up on an Angus cattle stud in the NSW central west. During her career, she's worked in radio, television and print news in Australia and the UK. Joanna is currently part of the ABC team in Orange and before that was based in the ABC's Sydney newsroom. She's also reported for 730, Landline and radio current affairs. Joanna made the tree change with her family to enjoy what she hoped would be a slower pace of country life.

WELCOME TO ORANGE



CR JASON HAMLING
MAYOR - ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

Jason was elected Mayor of Orange at the December 2021 local council election. Born and bred in Orange, he's served on Orange City Council for the past 17 years, including twice as Deputy Mayor.

Jason grew up in Glenroi and has spent his adult life in Orange, making a home with his wife Melissa and their three boys. He had a successful career spanning 25 years as a local TV news cameraman. Now he is self-employed operating a transfer business for locals and visitors to Orange. He also works at a local high school as a student support learning officer.

A keen sportsman, he has played in and coached numerous junior rugby teams for the Orange City Rugby Club, has been involved with Orange Bush Nippers and several other community and sporting organisations. Jason has been instrumental in driving the development of the city's new sporting precinct at Jack Brabham.

As Mayor, he is committed to building a community that has facilities and spaces which promote an inclusive environment for all residents.

Jason believes the work-life balance which many Orange residents already enjoy, can be further improved with new and updated facilities including the Aquatic Centre, Lake and Mount Canobolas, Anzac Park extension, playground installations, and council-led approaches to private indoor/outdoor recreation companies to incentivise local operations such as rock walls, ropes courses, mountain bike trails, inflatable obstacle courses and orienteering.

Jason is also passionate about creating a youth mental health training facility at the Bloomfield campus, to bring more clinical expertise to the region. Another priority is to explore new opportunities for young people to train for the local hospitality industry.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



THE HON. TARA MORIARTY MLC

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES AND MINISTER FOR WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC was elected to the NSW Parliament as a member of the Legislative Council in 2019 and was immediately appointed Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Crown Lands. In 2021 she was appointed Shadow Minister for Corrections, Juvenile Justice, and Medical Research.

Prior to her election to Parliament, Ms Moriarty was the Secretary and then President of the United Voice Liquor and Hospitality Division and served as Chair of Club Plus Superannuation.

On the election of the Minns Labor Government in March 2023, Ms Moriarty was appointed the NSW Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW. Ms Moriarty is also currently a member of the ALP's National Executive and Senior Vice President of the NSW Labor Party.

As Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development Ms Moriarty oversees the management of NSW's primary industries, including forestry, and the co-ordination of issues affecting rural and regional communities across the state.



LIZ RITCHIE

CEO - REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE

As the CEO of the Regional Australia Institute, Liz Ritchie's primary goal is to make a difference through providing leadership and vision for a better future – a future that recognises regional Australia in a new light.

For over 20 years, Liz has worked across the corporate, government and the not-for-profit sector, and she specialises in leading organisational transformation to build a sustainable future. Liz is a change agent, a marketer, a researcher and an extremely passionate advocate for regional Australia, hailing from Deniliquin, NSW.

Liz understands the issues and opportunities impacting regional Australia, and is dedicated to reforming our regional economies - as well as changing the narrative to entice more Australians to live, work and invest in regional Australia through the Move to More national campaign.



CLIFF BINGHAM

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY - JOBS AND SKILLS AUSTRALIA (JSA)

Cliff Bingham is currently acting First Assistant Secretary of Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA), which is the senior public servant role that supports the JSA Commissioner. Cliff's longer-term role is as the Assistant Secretary of the Labour Market and Migration Branch. He leads JSA's work to advise on issues affecting the state of the Australian and international labour markets, and how these affect Australia's current, emerging and future workforce skills needs. He has worked across a number of Australian Public sector agencies for more than 20 years, including on long-run demographic and labour productivity analysis for the Department of the Treasury and on outcomes-focused performance measurement for the Australian Taxation Office.



ANNA BENNETT

EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER STRATEGY, SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION - ELDERS LIMITED

An experienced corporate strategist, Anna joined Elders as the Executive General Manager Strategy, Sustainability and Innovation in January 2023.

Previously, Anna was the General Manager Corporate Strategy at Australia Post, where she led the development and delivery of Australia Post's growth and transformation strategy during a period of significant growth and disruption of the core business.

Prior to Australia Post, Anna was a management consultant with Bain and Company in Melbourne with expertise in customer experience, performance improvement, corporate sourcing strategies and response to digital disruption. Anna also has experience working in the engineering and construction sector as an engineer and project manager.



GUY WEBB

HEAD OF GLOBAL AGRONOMY AND CO-FOUNDER - LOAM BIO

Out in the paddock is where the actual carbon sequestration action happens, and where boots and eyes on the ground can have a profound impact on soil health, the environment, and the farmers' bottom line. Guy can most often be found in his natural habitat, chin wagging with farmers, checking the health of a crop or digging in the soil thinking about how we can store more carbon there. Guy lends his 25 years of farmer, soil health, product development and agronomy experience to the team as co founder and Global Agronomic Lead of Loam Bio and Founder and Chairman of SoilCQuest 2031, a local NFP research institute based in Forbes dedicated to soil carbon research.

LIVEABILITY PANEL



FACILITATOR: ROBERT HARDIE

EXECUTIVE MANAGER AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH, REGIONAL AND REMOTE - NBN CO.

Robert was born and raised in Geelong, studied in Canberra and now lives in Sydney (all the while barracking for the Brisbane Lions). He is Executive Manager for Health and Agriculture at nbn, helping to lift the digital capability of regional Australians. Outside work, Robert is a keen swimmer – he is a Director with Masters Swimming Australia and former president of the Sydney Wett Ones, Australia's largest LGBT+ swimming club. He also serves on the committee of the Farm Writers' Association of NSW and is a Member of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.



GREG SAM

CEO - ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE, SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Greg is an experienced CEO and Director having worked in Senior Executive roles nationally and internationally in private, public and non-government sectors including significant experience in rural health. He is currently the CEO of the Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section, a Non-executive Director of Carers NSW, a Non-executive Director of Basketball Australia, a Non-executive Director of Royal Far West and a Non-executive Director of Youth Insearch Foundation. He has previously held Director roles with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council and Palliative Care Australia.



KAYLA HENLEY

AUSTRALIAN ARTIST

Kayla is both an emergency nurse and emerging artist based in Orange, NSW. She creates bright floral still life and abstract artworks in both acrylic and oil. Living and creating with the philosophy that life should be lived with more colour and joy. Mum to two very small humans and two very large fluffy dogs.



MADDY BUTLER
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR - THE PARENTHOOD

Maddy is Campaign Director at The Parenthood, a national advocacy organisation whose mission is to make Australia the best place in the world to be a parent. Maddy leads campaigns and community organising, with a particular focus on improving access to early childhood education and care in regional, rural and remote Australia. Maddy has a background in communications, volunteer management and digital campaigning. Her work spans from writing on kids' television show 'The InBESTigators' to working with parents- and community-based advocacy groups. With two young children of her own, Maddy's main passion is advocating for a better future for our children.



RICKY ALOGO
IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER - STEP UP FINANCIAL GROUP

As Step Up Financial's Implementation Manager, Ricky develops processes to introduce new programs and systems to help his team function more efficiently and effectively.

He combines qualifications with experience, with a master's degree in Business Administration from the Australian Institute of Business and 15+ years of working in the business sector as a consultant and business owner in Africa and the Middle East.

Ricky's previous roles as Account Manager, Business Consultant and Chief Operating Officer have provided invaluable experience in establishing and maintaining a business and developing his deep understanding of the technical aspects of creating wealth and the importance of making well-informed financial decisions.

JOBS AND SKILLS PANEL



FACILITATOR: TIG ARMSTRONG
PROGRAM MANAGER - WORK + STAY

With extensive experience in economic development, Tig has worked locally, nationally and internationally to drive the sustainable growth of regional, remote and urban communities. From leading urban development in the UK to fostering the economic growth of remote Australian First Nations communities, Tig has deep expertise in regional development, infrastructure creation, community development and sustainable economic growth strategies.

Tig also has significant experience in regional Australia, having led economic development in a key agricultural and tourism area of NSW. With a strong understanding of the unique challenges facing regional Australia, he provides expert cross-sector guidance to build partnerships between communities, governments and the private sector that bring about sustainable economic growth.

Tig is currently leading a highly innovative new approach to addressing crisis-level workforce shortages across regional Australia for Work + Stay.



KEVIN MCGUIRE
CEO - WANGARANG INDUSTRIES LTD

Kevin was employed in the banking industry for almost 25 years (commencing his career in Casino) and held four management positions in the Central West of NSW before moving into the disability sector.

Kevin was General Manager for House With No Steps (now Aruma) Western NSW Region for 15 years based in Forbes.

Kevin is currently the CEO for Wangarang Industries Ltd, a disability service provider based in Orange NSW, a position he has held for the past 11 years.

Kevin currently sits on the Board of the Orange Ex-Services Club.



ANTHONY DAWSON
EMPLOYMENT FACILITATOR - WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA LOCAL JOBS

Anthony is the Employment Facilitator with Workforce Australia Local Jobs Central West. Anthony has 18 years' experience in employment services in both disability and general employment services. He has managed teams across Orana Far West, Central West, and South Coast Employment Regions. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History, Sociology and Politics. Anthony lives in Parkes NSW with his wife and family of 7 children.



DAMIEN O'DONNELL
CLIENT DIRECTOR - SPINIFEX RECRUITING

As a Recruitment professional, Damien is passionate about building relationships with individuals and organisations that are, or would like to be, connected to Regional NSW. Managing three teams across Regional NSW allows Damien to pursue this passion. As part of Damien's role, he also recruits for mid to senior roles in the Regional and Agribusiness markets.



PHILIP DODDS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PHOCAS SOFTWARE

Phil is a Director and co-owner of Phocas Group, a tech company with operations in Orange, Sydney, Melbourne, USA, UK and NZ. Phocas employs over 350 people. Phil's main role at Phocas is in directing the product strategy of the company's business planning and analytics platform.

Phil is also a Director of Quantaco, a company providing technology to the hospitality industry.

As an experienced SaaS tech entrepreneur, Phil also advises growing tech businesses and mentors a number of Tech CEOs.

Phil is a Chartered Accountant and CPA and started his career with PWC before becoming involved in many tech start-ups. Phil also runs a family-run livestock farm near the Phocas RandD centre in rural NSW.



JOSIE HOWARD
DIRECTOR - REGIONAL NSW ESSENTIAL WORKER PROGRAM

Josie has Western Region blood running through her veins and is passionate about the prosperity and sustained growth for all NSW regional communities. With a solid background in marketing, workforce and economic development, Josie understands the challenges and impacts regional communities are facing regarding skills, attraction and retention.

With a focus on liveability and service accessibility, Josie leads the NSW Government's Essential Worker Attraction Program to support the strengthening of the bedrock of community through accessibility to essential services through targeted skills attraction and retention.

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE PANEL



FACILITATOR: JO WOODBURN
SENIOR REPORTER - ABC CENTRAL WEST

Joanna is a reporter with ABC News. She's originally from Scotland and grew up on an Angus cattle stud in the NSW central west. During her career, she's worked in radio, television and print news in Australia and the UK. Joanna is currently part of the ABC team in Orange and before that was based in the ABC's Sydney newsroom. She's also reported for 730, Landline and radio current affairs. Joanna made the tree change with her family to enjoy what she hoped would be a slower pace of country life.



NICKY TRACEY
GM COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT - AUSTRALIA POST

Nicky is a senior community relations, sustainability and stakeholder engagement professional with more than 20 years' experience working in Asia, Europe, and the UK. Nicky is the General Manager of Community and Stakeholder at Australia Post where she has developed a new enterprise community strategy with the focus areas of mental health and wellbeing, disaster support, literacy and environment as well as overseeing the enterprise stakeholder engagement strategy.

Prior to joining Australia Post, Nicky was the Asia Pacific Director of Brand and Values for The Body Shop International where she was responsible for developing and implementing social and environmental awareness and engagement campaigns across 16 countries in Asia. Campaigns she worked on included a domestic violence campaign that won a United Nations Women's Award. Nicky has sat on the Board of a number of not for profits.



JUSTIN JARRETT
OWNER AND OPERATOR - SEE SAW ORGANIC WINES

Justin along with his wife Pip are the Owners and Operators of See Saw Wine. See Saw is an award-winning, certified organic family wine business from the cool climate region of Orange, NSW. Justin and Pip are pioneers in the organic wine industry, and have turned exceptional wines driven by sustainable practices, into a delicious reality.

Justin along with Pip made the move to the Orange region where in 1995 they planted their first vineyard. Now Justin and Pip have three beautiful properties across the Orange region with differing levels of elevation 15 years ago the decision was made to transition to a certified organic operation. See Saw has taken out the best organic wines in NSW for three years running and received a legion of trophies and awards across all wine varieties. Justin was the recipient of the Graham Gregory Award, a top citation acknowledging an individual's outstanding contribution to the NSW Wine Industry.



KAREN SMITH-POMEROY

BOARD MEMBER, NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FUND AND
CHAIR - REGIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Karen is an experienced non-executive director, based in Queensland, with many years of experience in the financial services sector, including a period of 5 years as Chief Risk Officer for Suncorp Bank. She has specific expertise in compliance, risk and governance, with specialist knowledge of a number of industry sectors, in particular energy, agriculture, and housing/property development. She has a history of leading high performing teams and experience building and implementing refreshed fit for purpose risk management frameworks and governance processes. Karen has undertaken several consultancy assignments advising organisations as to the maturity of their governance and risk practices and assisting to improve the quality of reporting to the board and management to ensure the right things are being elevated and monitored.

Karen is currently a non-executive director of several listed, unlisted and government entities, including Queensland Treasury Corporation, Kina Securities Limited (ASX:KSL) and National Reconstruction Fund Corporation, and is Chair of Regional Investment Corporation and National Affordable Housing Consortium Limited. She recently retired from the Board of Stanwell Corporation Limited after completing an 8 year term.

Karen is also an experienced risk and audit committee member and chair. She is currently Chair of the audit and risk committee for the Qld Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and is an independent audit and risk committee member for the Qld Department of Premier and Cabinet and Public Sector Commission.



JOHANNA MARSH

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER STRATEGY AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS - INLAND RAIL

Johanna joined Inland Rail in 2021 as a Senior Project Manager and in 2023 was appointed to the role of Acting General Manager Strategy and Corporate Affairs. Prior to joining Inland Rail, Johanna consulted on major infrastructure programs across Australia and led the development of significant government policy change as it relates to both procurement, commercial models and sustainability.

Johanna fosters a collaborative approach to project delivery, bridging technical and non-technical aspects to drive best-for-project outcomes. She has significant crisis management experience and brings from that perspective the unique skill set required to guide a complex project of this scale from planning to delivery.

As the key project liaison for Shareholding Departments, Ministerial Offices, Federal and State MPs and key external stakeholders, Johanna's role is integral in ensuring that the Inland Rail project continues to deliver in line with government and stakeholder expectations.

REGIONS RISING ORANGE - ATTENDEES

You can view a full list of Regions Rising New South Wales attendees [here](#), or by scanning this QR code:



REGIONS RISING NATIONAL SERIES PARTNERS

Regions Rising 2023 is sponsored by NBN Co and Elders, we thank them for their valued support.



REGIONS RISING NSW EVENT PARTNER

Thank you to our Regions Rising New South Wales event partner, Inland Rail.





Connecting Regional Australia

Now more than ever, we're focused on lifting the digital capability of Australians in regional and remote areas.

Improving technology

We are continuing to evolve the **nbn**[®] network for you, with record investment to extend its reach and capability, and help bring competition and improved service deeper into rural and regional Australia.

Understanding local needs

Our dedicated **nbn**[®] Local team works with your community, helping to provide localised solutions for a network better suited to your region.

Supporting digital innovation

We're working with industry groups to enhance what's possible in the fields of business, health, education, agriculture and more.

We're committed to delivering a better **nbn[®] network for regional Australia.**

nbn[®] Local

nbn.com.au/local



**REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA**
INSTITUTE

© Regional Australia Institute 2023

CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

P. 02 62603733

E. INFO@REGIONALAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU

WWW.REGIONALAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU
WWW.REBALANCETHENATION.COM.AU