



UPPER SPENCER GULF COMMON  
PURPOSE GROUP



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*  
F A R N O R T H

## MEDIA RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL HONOUR FOR REGIONAL LEADER

Regional leader Dr Jen Cleary has recently been honoured by the International Regional Science Association for her contribution to regional science.

One of three international finalists for the 'Best Doctoral Dissertation in Regional Science' Dr Cleary will attend the award presentation ceremony in Washington in November.

Dr Cleary is a geographer with research interests in rural, regional and remote policy and development and is extensively involved in these areas within both the Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North Regions. She also works nationally and internationally in the areas of rural community development and planning and social impact assessment.

Dr Cleary, who chairs the Regional Development Australia Far North Board and leads the education and research sub-committee of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group, said she was shocked but very excited to find out she was a finalist for the prestigious award.

"The nomination process was quite some time ago, and I had completely forgotten about it" she said. "I received the email, quite fittingly, while I was in Alice Springs recently for a conference on sustaining regional Australia.

"I'm passionate about regional Australia and the value we add to the rest of the country, and it is important that we continue to build our own capabilities, if we want to position ourselves to make our own decisions about our futures", said Dr Cleary

"Developing skills and knowledge and being able to apply this in my own region is very satisfying, and to be honoured this way in the process is fantastic," she added.

Others around the region are also excited for Dr Cleary's success: RDA Far North CEO Claire Wiseman commented "this is a great achievement for Jen; she has worked very hard and is extremely committed to this region and her work. It is fabulous to have someone of Jen's calibre based in the far north region and as Chair of our Board. Seeing her work recognised at this level really showcases what brilliance can be achieved in regions and having that recognised at an international level is outstanding."

Mayor Brenton Vanstone, Chair of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group also praised Jen's nomination. "To have the Upper Spencer Gulf represented by Dr Cleary internationally provides a great role model for others in our region and a testament to what is possible", he said.

Dr Cleary will shortly take up a senior research fellowship within the Business School at the University of South Australia, where her research will focus on regional, rural and remote

Australian communities and their sustainable development. She is delighted that she will be able to continue to live in Port Augusta and maintain her commitments to the region.

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