



**SEGRA**  
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH  
FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

20-22 October 2015, Bathurst NSW

**Attention: News Editors / Chief of Staff  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Making Regions Stronger, More Resilient and Sustainable.**

Next week close to 200 people are meeting at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, to identify the most successful actions regions can take to make them stronger, more resilient and sustainable.

The national Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (**SEGRA**) conference is gathering this week to discuss how to grow sustainable regions.

**SEGRA** brings together economic development, community, environmental and government expertise to promote regions and regional issues and empower regions to lead their own futures. The conference will unpack 21st century language such as agility, innovation and digital disruption and showcase how regional Australians are leading innovators.

"We are delighted to have internationally recognised, Ken Varcoe, Technical Director, Water Engineers United Pty Ltd addressing the conference" said Convenor Kate Charters.

"Water Engineers United is a global company focussed on water treatment solutions for a range of applications. Ken will be sharing his cutting edge work on how to use common salt to make safe water in regional Australia. This innovation has remarkable implications for regional Australia and beyond.

Other sustainability strategies to be highlighted are:

How the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder are set to save \$360,000 per year and create significant CO2 emission reductions through the Community Energy Efficiency Program. "The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has played a central role in securing the funding, managing the project and dealing with the numerous stakeholders involved such as the local shires, Horizon Power, GVROC and the WA Department of Treasury" said Ryan Wilson, the Sustainability Officer for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.



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Dr. Lorne Butt will be sharing the development of the design for the Mudgee Learning Resource Hub, TAFE NSW, as a living laboratory to demonstrate innovation in educational delivery and sustainable infrastructure renewal.

Throughout the whole program **SEGRA** will be featuring the interplay of land, water and society in making regions stronger, more resilient and sustainable.

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To arrange interviews with speakers, please contact Conference Convenor Ms Kate Charters on 0408 882 871.

For general interviews about issues affecting regional Australia, please contact Professor Geoff Cockfield, Founding Member of **SEGRA**, 0409 490 073

*To see the full conference program please visit*  
[http://www.segra.com.au/segra\\_prog.html](http://www.segra.com.au/segra_prog.html)



**Ken Varcoe** is the Technical Director of Water Engineers United Pty Ltd, a global company focused on water treatment solutions for a range of applications. Ken is a member of the Institute of Engineers and gained his professional qualifications in Chemical Engineering, and Business (Administration) from Swinburne University of Technology. Additionally, he has undertaken courses in Electrochemistry in Australia and Germany. He has been with

Water Engineers for over 15 years working from their Head Office on the Gold Coast Queensland on projects in key Australian states and overseas (eg India, Dubai, Mexico, China, Iran, Singapore and the USA). Currently, Ken is involved in collaborative research, development and demonstration (RD&D) project work aimed at generating water disinfectants from seawater using robust mobile solar powered units.



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**Dr. Lorne Butt** is the Sustainability Coordinator at TAFE NSW Western Institute. Lorne trained as a biologist before joining the higher education sector. With a background in quality management, strategic planning and corporate governance, Lorne now specialises in sustainability practice, governance, education and research. Lorne is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, and a member of the British and Australia/New Zealand academies of management, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and the Australian Association of Environmental Educators. Lorne is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Land, Water and Society at Charles Sturt University



**Ryan Wilson** has Bachelor of Science (hons) and economics from the University of Western Australia and a graduate certificate in project management from Curtin University. Ryan has worked for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for over two years and has managed numerous renewable energy and other sustainability related projects in this time including the construction of WA's largest council-owned solar PV system at the City's wastewater treatment plant.

*SEGRA 2015 is proudly supported by Charles Sturt University, TAFE Western, NSW Government Department of Industry, Regional Development Australia – Orana NSW, Regional Development Australia Central West, Central NSW Councils (Centroc), Western Research Institute Ltd. (WRI), Regional Development Australia – Riverina NSW, Rydges Mount Panorama, Verto, Bathurst Regional Council and Bendigo Bank.*