

Spotlight Snapshots for Tuesday 20 October 2015

Challenges, Issues and Strategies for Developing Regional Industry



Facilitator: Prof. Kishor Sharma,
Professor of Economics, Charles
Sturt University

This spotlight will be led by Professor Kishor Sharma (Charles Sturt University) and will cover pressing regional issues and challenges including skill shortages in regional Australia, regional migration and local industrial performance. Ideas Champions include economic researchers and policy makers with extensive experience in regional development issues in both Australia and overseas.

Raising Up Leaders and Getting Things Done in the Regions



Facilitator: Cassandra Hughes,
Manager Economic and Community
Development, Shire of Cranbrook,
Western Australia

The session will examine some of the traits of leaders in thriving-towns and communities and the ways in which they use their skills to benefit their communities. Key themes will include the components of effective influence, the context in which you have influence, influencing strategies and implementation, and fostering new leaders

Creating Diverse Regional Futures



Facilitator: Jeremy Buultjens,
Managing Editor, Journal of Economic
and Social Policy and School of
Business, Southern Cross University

Australia is becoming an ethnically diverse society and it is important that regional, rural and remote Australia is able to capture the benefits from this diversity. At the same time, these communities also need to fully capitalise on their existing human resources. The challenge for regional Australia is to develop socially inclusive communities where people feel valued, their differences accepted and respected and all barriers to their active participation in the economic, political and cultural life of the community are removed. The important question to be considered in this session include: What are the benefits for regional communities from diversity? How can we encourage diversity and inclusion? Is it harder for regional communities to ensure inclusion? What are the important policies for creating diverse regional futures?

Delivering Productivity Outcomes from Technological and Digital Disruption



Facilitator: Cr. Rod Macdonald,
Portfolio for Knowledge Economy
& Education and Major Projects,
City of Greater Geelong

The undeniable widespread and deep changes that brought about digitisation has significantly contributed to productivity growth in the Australian economy. However such transformational change does not necessarily translate into widespread or major productivity growth. Australia has been seen as one of the first countries to show productivity gains from putting ICTs to innovative uses. This spotlight will consider: where are the new opportunities for productivity improvements? Are we taking-up on these? How can we implement these opportunities in Regional Australia?

Labour Markets and Regional Australia



Facilitator: Dr. Kim Houghton,
General Manager, Policy and Research,
Regional Australia Institute and Adjunct
Associate Professor, University of Canberra

Labour and capital are essential factors of production. In regional Australia labour can be a significant differentiator in investment location decisions.

The increasing shift to post industrial economies creates new opportunities for regions - this will mean exploring how to adapt through socially, spatially and economically restructuring concepts of location of production, structuring of work and distribution of costs and risks.

Issues to be considered in this spotlight include: the nature of businesses, the use of migrant and mobile workforces, the remaking of the SME, the construct of regions as a productive landscape.

Case studies will be used to highlight how some regions have increased labour capacity in their regional economies.