



## 2. Building Resilience



**Prof. Alan Lawton**, Professor of Management, Federation University Australia presents on “*Developing a Regional Resilience Monitor*”

### Abstract

Regional resilience, in terms of health and well-being, lifting productivity and economic growth, managing risk, and capturing opportunities for sustainable environments and human systems, has been identified as a key strategic priority for Australia. Regions, as much as individuals, can be vulnerable to changes in economic, social, health or environmental conditions. What is important is how regions respond to, and indeed, anticipate the impact of these changes.

The capacity to respond will depend upon a number of factors including current economic health, the quality of the relationships between different stakeholders, the support networks that exist within a community, the human capabilities and competences that exist and the attitudes of groups and individuals to the challenge of change.

However, the concept of resilience itself is contested. It has been identified as a response to key events such as floods, climate change or bushfires (Pooley et al. 2010); as the capacity of individuals and communities (Buckle et al., 2001); and elsewhere, as the quality of a nation (Conservative Party UK 2010). Notwithstanding such definitional problems, we offer our own definition: Resilience is the capacity of a community to respond to, and anticipate economic, social and environmental change and to adapt, plan and transform itself for the future.



**Dr. Kim Houghton**, General Manager, Regional Australia Institute and Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Canberra will present his case study “*The Future Economic Performance of Australia’s Regions*”.

### Abstract

The presentation will detail the findings of the RAI’s analysis of economic modelling results for every Australian LGA to 2030. Based on an optimistic, pessimistic and business as usual scenario, the range of future economic outcomes for each LGA have been estimated. Areas most likely to outperform or underperform, to be stable or volatile in response to macro-economic changes are revealed by this analysis. This has significant implications for development approaches and priorities in regions around Australia.

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**Dr. Valerie Ingham**, Senior Lecturer of Emergency Management, Australian Graduate School of Policing & Security Services, Charles Sturt University and co-presenter **Dr. Sarah Redshaw**, Research Associate, Institute for Land, Water and Society, Charles Sturt University, will present their case study “*Exploring Community Resilience and Vulnerabilities in the Blue Mountains*”.

