



SEGRA
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH
FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

20-22 October 2015, Bathurst NSW

Attention: News Editors / Chief of Staff
EMBARGOED UNTIL 20 OCTOBER

Australia's economic outlook: where will future productivity come from for regional Australia

" Australia's economic outlook is facing three headwinds: the slowing of China as it transitions away from construction -fuelled growth, long-term demographic change as our population ages and declining participation rates" , according to Kristian Kolding, Associate Director, Deloitte Access Economics when he addressed the Sustainable Economic Growth for regional Australia (SEGRA) conference in Bathurst today.

"Together these forces represent our productivity challenge: factors that in the past supported growth in living standards are now weighing on per capita growth. " said Mr Kolding.

Kristian Kolding was delivering a keynote address at Australia's premier national conference being held at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst,

" Growth drivers are changing and as business investment falls, resource exports rise and lower interest and exchange rates favour growth in the south eastern states, regional Australia must ask where will future productivity come from." said Mr Kolding

" First and foremost regional Australia must take full advantage of the Asian opportunity and free trade agreements are an encouraging step in the right direction. yet Australia must also tackle the more complex issue of economic reform"

Speaking of the recently released fifth instalment in the Building the Lucky country series , Kristian outlined some of the many steps that Australia will need to take to maintain current living standards and capitalise on more than two decades of economic growth.....



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On Thursday 22nd October there will be a Free Trade Agreement Workshop" on the Bathurst campus looking at how producers in this region can maximise the opportunities brought by the Free Trade Agreements. Mr Michael Growder from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as Mr Simon Boughey, CEO Cherry Growers Australia will lead this workshop. For more information contact info@segra.com.au

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To see the full conference program please visit
http://www.segra.com.au/segra_prog.html



Kristian Kolding joined Deloitte through the acquisition of Access Economics in 2011. He is an Associate Director in Deloitte Access Economics' Macroeconomic Policy and Forecasting team where he undertakes much of the economic forecasting underlying publications such as *Business Outlook* and *Building the Lucky Country*. Kristian's economic consulting experience covers a wide range of areas, including industrial relations, infrastructure privatisations, and education and labour market policy.

Prior to joining Access Economics, Kristian completed a Masters of Economics in Denmark and spent time working in India. He is currently undertaking his MBA at the Australian Graduate School of Management and in his spare time Kristian enjoys getting outdoors to coach his soccer team.

To arrange interviews with speakers please contact conference convenor Ms Kate Charters on 0408 882871.

For general interviews about issues affecting regional Australia please contact Professor Geoff Cockfield, Founding member of **SEGRA**, (04) 0949-0073



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