



Rural Skills Connect

Connecting Industry to Skilled Labour

SEGRA 2009

Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Goldfields Esperance, WA

Presented by: Cr Roberto Paino, Rural City of Wangaratta, Victoria

A red tractor with a large implement is parked in a rural setting. The background shows trees and a fence. The text is overlaid on the image.

Rural Skills Connect (North East) is a project aimed at addressing vital skills gaps in North East Victoria by utilising the transferable skills of the 'on farm' sector.

The project aims to match candidates with suitable credentials to existing job vacancies.

Partners involved in the Program

- Regional Development Victoria
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- Moira Shire Council
- City of Greater Shepparton
- Alpine Shire
- Department of Primary Industry
- Centrelink
- Skill Store
- Business/Industry

Key Stakeholders who work across the four shires engaging with industry and potential employees.

What does the project do?

- Engages rural people who have a range of skills considered a priority for regional economic growth, but for which formal recognition of these skills may not have been obtained.
- Link appropriate employment and associated training opportunities to rural farm workers, owners, operators and rural enterprises who have the skills to meet these needs.

Benefits to the farming sector

- An opportunity to participate in a detailed, individualised skill assessment;
- Access to highly relevant, targeted training opportunities; and
- Access to flexible employment opportunities that seek to balance on and off-farm employment options.



Eligibility criteria

- Rural farming workers
- Farm owners and operators
- Rural enterprise employees



Benefits to Industry

Available to local industry, it will provide:

- Access to a reliable, hard working and local employee base;
- Transitional training support; and
- An opportunity to assist the surrounding rural community in a tangible way.



Eligible Industries

A wide range of skills important to regional industry in the North East are focused on including (but not restricted to):

- Welding
- Transport
- Mechanical/Machinery Operation
- Horticultural
- Hospitality and
- Aged care



Achievements in North East Victoria

- 355 participants
- 108 gainfully employed
- 282 participants have received training at a cost of \$
- 125 businesses and industries have expressed interest in the program.
- REMPLAN calculates an additional 108 jobs creates another 118 extra jobs with an economic impact of \$67.25m

Statewide Perspective

Since being rolled out across Victoria in September 2008:

- In excess of 1,400 participants
- More than 1,000 have completed or in the process of completing training
- Over 350 have been gainfully employed (EFT)

Bushfire Recovery

Rural Skills adapts to assist Black Saturday bushfire recovery effort in Murrindindi Shire:

- From drought recovery to bushfire recovery
- Increased work opportunities versus increase in skilled labour



Bushfire Recovery

- 306 participants with EFT outcome of 64.5 in Hume Southern region
- 109 bushfire impacted participants, 87 completed training, 82 achieving employment outcomes



Program Recognition

Award Winner
of the:

**Economic
Development
Australia**

National Strategic Award for 2008





Contact



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