



The Hon Nola Marino MP

**Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories
Federal Member for Forrest**

MEDIA RELEASE

**RDA AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY SUPPORTING
COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19**

The Australian Government commends the outstanding work of RDA Australian Capital Territory in supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Led by Chair Mr Ross MacDiarmid, RDA Australian Capital Territory's engagement with their community, businesses and all levels of Government has been vital in identifying emerging issues throughout the crisis and opportunities for the recovery phase.

This work is important to managing impacts and ensuring communities and businesses are able to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Key activities being undertaken by RDA Australian Capital Territory include:

- Promoting solutions to the region's small and medium enterprises, including models for favourable loan arrangements and business advisory workshops;
- Promoting recovery opportunities in the food and food security industries and helping to put in place protections against future supply chain disruptions;
- Promoting models for mental health and resilience training in the region; and
- Conducting a survey of the 2500 members of the RDA's food hub program, and holding one-on-one discussions to facilitate connections with suitable local support programs.

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) have played and continue to play an important role in delivering sustainable infrastructure and services to their region. These Committees deliver important work in consulting with communities, promoting and participating in regional initiatives, and providing information and advice on their region to all levels of Government.

Since late March I have been holding regular teleconferences with RDA representatives three times a week. These conversations provided first-hand insights into how local communities are coping, and the impact and effectiveness of Government response measures. This local intelligence is provided directly to Government ministers and agencies to inform policymaking.

I want to thank the RDA Australian Capital Territory committee members and staff for their work in driving positive change in your local communities.

If you would like to learn more about how RDA Australian Capital Territory is able to assist you, visit its website at www.rdaact.org.au/.

Further information about the RDA program is available at www.rda.gov.au.