



# Regional Development Australia Hunter

## Quarterly Report to the Region

1 October to 31 December 2018

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## INTRODUCTION

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Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of local leaders working with all levels of government, the private sector, businesses and community groups to support economic development within their regions.

Facilitated through the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities RDA Hunter is funded by the Australian Government to facilitate a charter for a strong, confident and vibrant region.

RDA Hunter's Quarterly Report to the region highlights recent work we have undertaken to 31 December 2018 and identifies future economic development opportunities.

## OCTOBER 2018

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### **RDA Hunter's STEMship cited as exemplar at WFCP World Congress**

RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Manager, Rick Evans attended the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) World Congress in Melbourne.

Hosted by Australian TAFEs, the Congress brought together over 800 delegates from community colleges and polytechnics from around the world and experts in professional and vocational education and training. It explored new challenges in vocational and professional education and training arising from advances in technologies and automation and the impact on work, societies and peoples who may be displaced due to changing economic and global circumstances.

Of interest to RDA Hunter was the session by OECD's Paris-based Head, Local Economic and Employment Division, Mr Sylvain Giguere. Mr Giguere's session covered: Apprenticeships and how other work-based learning opportunities can improve the transition from school to work while also ensuring that individuals acquire the skills they need to be successful in an evolving and unpredictable labour market.

He overviewed how apprenticeship programmes can play a critical role in supporting regional economic development efforts by better supplying employers with critical talent while also improving their profitability and productivity. He discussed the role of the local level in engaging employers to participate in work-based training and apprenticeship opportunities.

And, importantly, he highlighted RDA Hunter's STEMship program as a case study of successful policy implementation in Australia.

RDA Hunter looks forward to the release of the OECD's upcoming report on "Engaging Employers in Skills at the Local Level" that will further highlight STEMship as an exemplar of success in workforce development via industry engagement.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/oecd-cites-stemship-as-exemplar-at-wfcp-world-congress>

## Applications open for Director of Regional Development (DRD)

RDA Hunter advertised applications were open for the position of Director of Regional Development as per the funding agreement.

The DRD brings together stakeholders to drive change by identifying skills gaps and shortages hampering regional growth or limiting opportunities. Experience in facilitating the development and implementation of local solutions in industry sectors and ability to identify economic drivers to respond to regional infrastructure needs will support business growth in the Hunter.

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/applications-for-director-of-regional-development-drd-rda-hunter>

## RDA Hunter supports University of Newcastle Second Cities Symposium

### Second Cities: Smaller and Smarter Symposium

Newcastle, 29-31 October 2018



Symposium Lead Partners



RDA Hunter supported the *Second Cities Symposium: Smaller and Smarter* hosted by the University of Newcastle and held on 29 – 31 October 2018.

Second Cities: Smaller and Smarter provides an international platform for airing and contesting leading contemporary thought in urban and regional planning and development. The symposium showcases Greater Newcastle's experience and potential on its journey to becoming a global 'second city'. It also offers the opportunity to explore aspects of the important city-region nexus of economic flows, and travel for work and recreation.

Drawing on local, national and global expertise, the symposium provides a forum for analysing, debating and informing thinking on the evolution of second cities toward a state characterised by resilience, sustainability and liveability. It explores innovation and disruption in urban design, city and regional planning, economic development, technology development, health, education, innovation, liveability and wellbeing.

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/about-uon/governance-and-leadership/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-business-and-law/conferences/second-cities-smaller-and-smarter-symposium>

## Regional partnerships

Consultations continued with government agencies, business and industry groups and community organisations throughout October including with representatives from TAFE NSW, Lockheed Martin, Defence NSW, CSIRO, RDA Central Coast, NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet, Central Coast Industry Connect, Boeing Defence Australia, Newcastle City Council & Lake Macquarie City Council.

## NOVEMBER 2018

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### RDA Hunter visits RDA Southern Inland as part of SISP Project

RDA Hunter visited RDA Southern Inland for the pilot STEM Industry Schools Partnership project that provides students in Years 5 to 8 with STEM skills and inspiration to explore STEM jobs.

The visit saw RDAH and RDASI staff attend school visits in Crookwell and an industry visit to Gullen Range Wind Farm.

The collaboration project is funded by the NSW Department of Education.

For more information on the project:

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/rdas-collaborate-to-stem-skill-school-students-through-sisp>

### miniME Project – Final Challenge

Close to 350 primary school students from 18 schools across Newcastle competed in the miniME Challenge at The Forum on Wednesday 28th Nov as part of RDA Hunter's miniME robotics and coding focused STEM activities.

Part of a Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter, City of Newcastle and Obelisk Systems partnership, the Challenge is the culmination of Phase One of the miniME Program, which saw the expansion of STEM activities, including robotics and coding programs, into 18 primary schools in Newcastle.



City of Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the miniME school engagement program was about inspiring careers and creating jobs at home in Newcastle.

“Our vision is for Newcastle to be a smart, liveable and sustainable global city. This program is helping to instil these values in the next generation as students learn how technology can be used to address issues such as protecting our environment,” said the Lord Mayor.

“This program offers young people hands-on, interactive learning and will equip them for future careers that will originate out of a city of innovation.”

<https://www.rdahunterstem.org.au/minime/student-programmed-mars-rovers-took-over-civic-precinct-in-minime-challenge/>

### **RDA Hunter sponsors Hunter Young Business Mind Awards – STEM Category**

The Hunter Young Business Minds Awards focus is building bridges between industry, educators and community while encouraging a culture of creativity and innovation. It recognises the ideas and achievements of the Hunter’s next generation of business and community leaders.

#### Major Category Sponsors

- Harvey Norman – Best Learning Experience encouraging creativity, innovation or entrepreneurialism in the school or classroom.
- Port Stephens Council – Social Enterprise ideas created by students
- Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter - Innovative business ideas and solutions from STEM
- Newcastle Airport – Best idea for a product, service or business from a Young Indigenous student
- Bengalla Mining Company – Business, product or service idea from student in the Creative Industries

<http://rdahunter.org.au/news-events/rda-hunter-supports-young-business-mind-awards>

### **Local ‘Women in STEM’ inspire female students**

RDA Hunter held its first Women in STEM workshop with students from Years 7 to 9 from All Saints College – St Peter’s Campus, Maitland.

The two-day workshop included a careers session, an industry visits and a hands-on drone workshop to encourage students to study STEM subjects and careers in STEM.

RDA Hunter’s Women in STEM Project is delivered with support from the NSW Government’s Investing in Women program through the Department of Family and Community Services.

<https://www.rdahunterstem.org.au/investing-in-women/local-women-in-stem-inspire-female-students/>



## Regional partnerships

Consultations continued with government agencies, business and industry groups and community organisations throughout November including with representatives from Lake Macquarie City Council, Lockheed Martin, Hunter Young Business Minds Committee, University of Newcastle, AGL, Farmtucker, NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet & CSIRO.

## DECEMBER 2018

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### RDA Hunter presents “2018 Lockheed Martin Technology Expo”

The 2018 Lockheed Martin Australia Technology Expo provided an opportunity for close to 300 secondary students (year 7-11) from the Hunter region to engage directly with cutting-edge technology and interact with Defence industry personnel.

Exhibitors at the Lockheed Martin Australia Technology Expo 2018 included Lockheed Martin Australia, BAE Systems, Boeing Australia, Defence Force Recruiting, Varley Group, Pennant Training, TAFE NSW, Milskil, Department of Defence Industry Policy Division as well as the University of Newcastle. Thank you to LMA and the exhibiting organisations for providing an excellent and career influencing opportunity to students of the Hunter.

In partnership with Lockheed Martin Australia, we are aiming to add this as an annual event to the suite of RDA Hunter’s STEM Workforce initiatives in 2019 and would welcome your feedback.



#### Media Coverage:

<https://www.nbnnews.com.au/2018/12/13/thousands-in-funding-finds-students-closer-to-success-in-stem/>

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5810293/makers-of-f-35-jet-announce-16-places-in-student-training-program/?cs=12>

Tuesday, 18 December 2018

## RDA Hunter announces formal partnership with Lockheed Martin Australia

RDA Hunter welcomes the partnership with Lockheed Martin Australia and the initial investment of more than \$60,000 in the Hunter to support initiatives across the secondary, vocational and tertiary education continuum, specifically:

- RDA Hunter will partner with Lockheed Martin Australia and TAFE NSW, under a new STEMstart initiative, to shape vocational education curriculum that will ensure a job-ready, highly skilled, high value workforce to support the industry technologies of the future. The program will enhance the vocational pathway for technical training to include critical skills in cyber, ICT and programming, and attract students to the expanding sector.
- Lockheed Martin Australia will support curriculum development across relevant STEM-related University of Newcastle courses. Called Project Altitude Accord, this initiative will support the contextualisation of curriculum to develop a 'fifth-generation' technology-enabled workforce to support Lockheed Martin Australia's future job requirements.
- The unveiling of the Future Generation STEM interactive display, which has been tailored to careers of the future and aims to take year 7-11 students on a journey from today, into the future and beyond with a range of interactive educational activities.

Details of the partnerships can be found at <https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/key-enablers/3305-defence-prime-leads-regional-stem-workforce-growth>



## Regional partnerships

Consultations continued with government agencies, business and industry groups and community organisations throughout December including with representatives from Lockheed Martin Australia, NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet, Hunter Energy Transition, Upper Hunter Diversification Working Group, NSW Health Pathology, RAAF Williamtown STEM Coordination Group, TAFE NSW, University of Newcastle & CSIRO.

## Emerging and potential issues impacting future regional development

Issue	RDA Hunter's responses
Jobs for the future – a skilled and ready workforce	Work with industry partners to identify skills gaps
	Build relationships between industry and educators to develop learning and knowledge sharing experiences
	Promote future employment opportunities within partner schools
	Seek public and private investment in STEM Workforce Initiative programs

## RDA HUNTER NEWSLETTERS

DATE	TOPIC
16 October 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
18 October 2018	RDA Hunter Quarterly Report to the Region
30 October 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
20 November 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
4 December 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update
18 December 2018	STEM Workforce Initiative Update