

## **SEGRA 2009**

### **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

#### **13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**27-29 October 2009**

**Kalgoorlie-Boulder, WA**



#### **Regional Australia: exploring new frontiers**

**SEGRA 2009** is being planned against the backdrop of a sudden and severe downturn in the global economy and significant uncertainty about Australia's short term economic outlook. The challenge for regional Australia is to not just survive the crisis but to ensure that the decisions made at all levels of government recognise the role and contributions of regional Australia. Regional Australia delivered the resources boom and a thriving and sustainable regional Australia is a necessary outcome.

Government, business and the non government sector must work actively with to ensure:

- spending that delivers increased productivity in regional Australia
- equitable funding arrangements for regional Australia including incentives for regionally based business investment
- operationalising models of governance that recognise the benefits of an engaged, politically supported, regional level of government

Much of regional Australia lives at the sharp edge of 'cycles' – climate change, resource booms, electoral cycles - our host region Kalgoorlie – Boulder epitomises the capacity of regional Australia to live and thrive within these vagaries.

In the current economic climate it is easy to judge 'winners' and 'losers'. It is well to ask what are the attributes that mean some businesses and regions end up losers while others batten down, draw on lessons from the past experiences, and see new opportunities to be winners in the next growth phase.

**SEGRA 2009** will provide a forum for regions to **step up to the challenge** and:

- Look at how to **ensure serious consideration is given** to the future for regional Australia by government;
- Ensure individual regions have the opportunity to explore and share some '**winning strategies**' for dealing with economic and business cycles;
- Examine opportunities for indigenous employment coming from new frontiers; and
- Look at how to **increase productivity and investment** in your region

Now is the time to ask: What sort of regions do we want to have a decade from now? The responses must boost the long term productive capacity of the economy. Actions must ensure that regions are best placed to weather the economic crisis and are positioned strongly for the inevitable return of growth. **SEGRA 2009** will examine a range of near term strategies that directly target economic risks; navigate the global crisis and position regional Australia to both capture opportunities arising through the recovery and deal with the longer term challenges.

Regional Australia must act together now to ensure that responses to the economic crisis enhance their capacity to contribute to economic and social well being.

For more information and to register, please visit the **SEGRA** website at [www.segra.com.au/segra](http://www.segra.com.au/segra).

## SEGRA 2009 Sponsors



## Action Agendas for *SEGRA 2009*

- The economic outlook for regional Australia – where to next?
- Securing a regional agenda
- Federalism – how can it deliver for regions?
- Regional identity and social capital
- Green technology as an economic driver
- Riding the cycles – managing change
- Indigenous Economic Development
- Communities, resource industries and sustainable development – living together
- Positioning small to medium enterprise business for the next boom
- New regional paradigms in response to climate change and new energy supply opportunities/ sustainable land stewardship/alternative and renewable fuels
- Australian frontiers in the next decade – opportunities and prospects for regional Australia
- Changes in key regional sectors – tourism, mining, agriculture, retail, manufacturing

Previous conference proceedings on cd-rom are available for purchase.

## Who Attends *SEGRA*:

Close to 300 influential delegates attend and reflect a wide cross-section of regional Australia representing:

- 30% of delegates were from local Government authorities
- 21% of delegates were from regional economic development bodies
- 18% of delegates were from state Government departments
- 14% of delegates were from the private sector
- 9% of delegates were from research institutions
- 7% of delegates were from Commonwealth agencies
- 1% of delegates were from overseas

Last year, delegates represented all Australian States and Territories as well as a number of delegates from overseas such as Iran.

## About Kalgoorlie-Boulder

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the hub of the Western Australian Goldfields region. Located approximately 600 km east-northeast of Perth, Kalgoorlie-Boulder is Australia's largest outback town with a population of over 30 000 people. The city is a dynamic and sophisticated regional centre, rich in culture and history, with a cosmopolitan lifestyle and modern facilities and services. The city has remained resilient through many 'boom and bust' periods, synonymous with the mining industry, demonstrating that this historic gold rush town has grown to be a sustainable regional city of the future.

**Conference Website:** [www.segra.com.au/segra](http://www.segra.com.au/segra)

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