

# Regionalisation Dialogue Day

15 September 2026  
8:30am - 12:30pm  
Hotel Realm, Canberra, ACT



## Testing Regional Solutions. Informing National Decision-Making.

Regional Australia is undergoing historic change, now home to more than 10 million people. Population growth, workforce shifts and industry transition are reshaping regional towns and cities at a pace not seen in generations. At the Regional Australia Institute (RAI), 15 years of research confirms the best solutions to drive regions forward come from people who know it best - regional leaders. So, when something works, let's not reinvent the wheel, but share what works, adapt it and amplify its impact.

Regionalisation Dialogue Day 2026 provides government policymakers with direct access to regional solutions that are already responding to this change and an opportunity to test them for policy fit, scalability and national relevance.

### What is Regionalisation Dialogue Day?

Regionalisation Dialogue Day is a national forum hosted by the RAI, delivered as a regional solutions exchange, with a strategic policy and investment lens. Together, the forum brings:

- Government policymakers from across portfolios and jurisdictions
- Members of the Regional Australia Council (RAC)
- Regional leaders from the Regional Activator Alliance (RAA)

RAA members present real, place-based projects as solution owners, while RAC members and policymakers act as strategic investors interrogating ideas, testing assumptions, and exploring pathways for wider implementation.

This is not a funding pitch or advocacy forum. It is a structured, evidence-led exchange designed to bridge policy intent and delivery reality.

### Why Policymaker Participation Matters

Regionalisation Dialogue Day 2026 offers policymakers the opportunity to:

- Engage directly with regional leaders delivering solutions in real communities
- Test policy settings against lived experience and delivery constraints
- Explore where national settings enable or inhibit success
- Identify initiatives with potential for replication or scale
- Inform future policy, funding and reform using practical evidence

The RDD26 format encourages constructive challenges, clear questioning and honest discussion focused on outcomes rather than advocacy.

### The Regionalisation Ambition 2032

RDD26 directly supports the RAI's [Regionalisation Ambition 2032](#), a nationally agreed, evidence based framework designed to unlock the full potential of regional Australia.

The Ambition includes: 25 measurable national targets under 6 ambition pillars; Population, Jobs and Skills, Liveability, Health, Productivity and Innovation, Sustainability and Resilience

Projects presented at RDD26 demonstrate how these targets are being pursued on the ground, providing government policymakers with practical insight into what is working, and why.

## What You Will See



Projects featured at RDD26 are:

- Grounded in place-based experience and regional need
- Focused on measurable outcomes and delivery
- Aligned to one or more Regionalisation Ambition pillars
- Relevant to national policy, investment or system-level change

Initiatives span sectors, geographies and stages of maturity offering a portfolio view of what is working across regional Australia.

## Why It Matters Now

RAA leaders representing more than 900 towns and cities are already responding to rapid change. Effective regional policy depends on understanding which solutions are working and what would allow them to travel further.

Regionalisation Dialogue Day 2026 creates a rare, structured opportunity for policymakers to connect evidence with experience, and policy ambition with practical delivery helping secure stronger outcomes for regional Australia and the nation.



## How it Works



Projects are submitted by Regional Activators Alliance (RAA) members.

[View Guidelines](#)



18 Shortlisted projects are presented at one of three Selection Sessions 'ready to scale', 'early stage' or 'bold idea'.



6 projects handpicked by RAC members are then presented at RDD26 in Canberra as part of the Regions Rising National Summit: People Power

**Back the Best Regional Solutions.  
Shape National Outcomes.**

For more information contact

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