

Regionalisation Dialogue Day

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



Back the Best Regional Solutions. Shape National Outcomes.

Regional Australia is undergoing historic change, now home to more than 10 million people. Population growth, shifting work patterns, and evolving industries are transforming 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 (RDD26) invites Regional Australia Council (RAC) members into an outcomes focused exchange where the most compelling regional solutions are presented, tested, and shaped for national impact.

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. At RDD26:

- Regional Activator Alliance (RAA) members present real, place-based projects as solution owners
- RAC members and government policymakers act as strategic investors, investing insight, challenge and pathways to scale
- Projects are interrogated for impact, policy relevance, risk and national scalability

This is not a funding pitch or traditional panel discussion. It is an active forum designed to test which regional solutions are ready to travel further and what it would take to back them.

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 RAC members with practical insight into what is working, and why.

Why RAC Engagement Matters

RDD26 positions RAC members as more than observers, recognising them as active strategic investors in regional success. Through RDD26, members will engage directly with regional leaders delivering change, pressure-test ideas through strategic questioning, identify initiatives with potential for replication or scale, surface system, policy or market barriers, and help shape pathways for national adoption. RAC leadership is critical to ensuring that proven regional solutions are recognised, strengthened and amplified.



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 members represent more than 900 regional towns and cities across Australia. At a time of growing opportunity for regional development, RAC insight, influence and challenge are essential to helping the strongest ideas break through.

Regionalisation Dialogue Day 2026 is about backing the best regional solutions and aligning regional innovation with national decision-making.



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

As a RAC member, you will be required to be part of the selection panel at one of these sessions.

For more information contact

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