



Press Release
For Immediate Release

Collaborative Place-Based Solutions – getting things done in regional, rural and remote Australia

Regional and rural Australia has long been recognised as fertile ground for demonstrating what is possible through successful collaborative place-based solutions. People on the ground know how to get things done.

While the arguments for focusing on place are based in robust research, the pre-conditions that enable transformative collaborative change are often undermined by changes of government policy, failure to fund promising long-term activities over short election cycles, and the need for more disruptive changes to enable all regional and rural Australians to live their best lives.

Into this high pressure mix also comes the curse of buzz words, often picked up by central government departments and expensive consultants based in big cities. People often say they're innovating and co-designing, but in reality design tools and frameworks are absent, people are still being designed for, and a reliance on the same old processes lead to missed opportunities for new insights and opportunities.

“We need stronger investment in regional and rural Australia to develop local capacity for collaborative design and innovation efforts.” said Ms Elson when speaking at the Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (*SEGRA*) conference today.

Ms Elson spoke particularly about the success of successful design approaches with Aboriginal communities in Victoria, as well as practical ways that people who live and work in regional and rural communities can step into a new future *by design*.

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SEGRA is recognised as Australia's most credible, independent voice on issues affecting regional, rural and remote Australia.





Ange Elson is the founder and Director, Practice Innovation at Stand Up Collaboration.

Ange is an expert in working directly with people and the communities they live in to create new solutions to the issues they face, and things they want to change. Her most recent work with Aboriginal communities in Victoria has been described as ‘trail blazing’ by the Australian and New Zealand School of Government.

She also brings over 20 years of experience in the public service where her roles included planning, project management, policy development, and industry engagement across health, human services, agriculture, education, Aboriginal health and wellbeing, disability and sport and recreation.

Ange is a passionate advocate for reconciliation, upholding the voice of people to inform the design of systems and services and building capacity for people to design for themselves.

For general media enquiries please contact Kate Charters (Convenor) 0408 882 871

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