



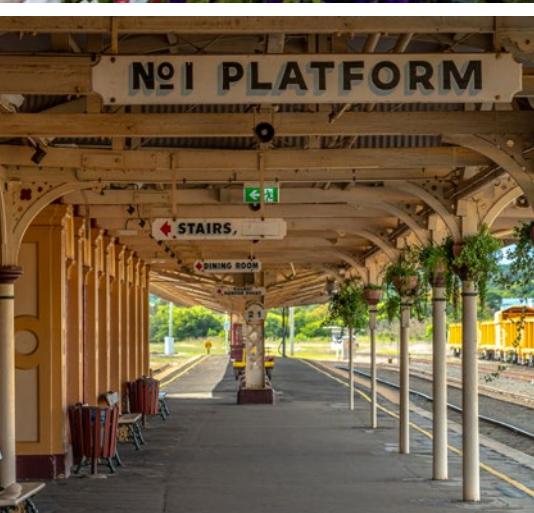
SEGRA
FOUNDATION
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH
FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA



TOOWOOMBA
REGION
Rich traditions. Bold ambitions.

National Regional and Economic Development Summit 2023

Program
Empire Theatres
TOOWOOMBA



Toowoomba

Brisbane

26 - 27 July 2023

www.segra.com.au

SEGRAau @segra_au



Mayor Paul Antonio Welcome

On behalf of my Council colleagues, I'm pleased to welcome delegates to the Toowoomba Region for the Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) Foundation national summit.

The Toowoomba Region offers an appealing mix of lifestyle choices, services, business and investment opportunities plus a host of unique tourist destinations.

Spanning almost 13,000km² in southern Queensland, the Region comprises a rich tapestry of diverse landscapes that reflect a distinct local identity, from Toowoomba's world-renowned gardens, and majestic street tree avenues, to the rich agricultural farmlands and natural areas.

We boast one of the most diverse economies in Australia, which has experienced a surge in activity in recent years. This has broadened the economic base to include manufacturing, especially value-adding in food processing, along with the growing transport, defence, logistics and information communication sectors and an emerging aerospace industry.

The Region is emerging as a significant freight hub for road, rail and air services and a distribution centre given its strategic location on the Melbourne-Brisbane freight route.

As the capital of the Darling Downs, the Toowoomba Region plays a key regional economic role, particularly in education, health, retail, mining, business services, defence and construction.

The Toowoomba Region generated \$11.6 billion in Gross Regional Product (GRP) in 2021/22 (*for the year ended June 30, 2022) and supported an estimated 90,183 jobs.

This represented around 3.4% of the Queensland economy, making it the third largest regional city economy in Queensland.

Council has great faith in the future of the Toowoomba Region, which is well positioned to capitalise on a decade-long run of enviable growth.

Our Region is fortunate to have proactive private investors, who are underpinning the Region's growth by delivering major projects that diversify our economy and offer varied job opportunities.

Toowoomba has a fantastic story and a positive vision to highlight. Few, if any, Australian regional centres can point to more than \$850 million in private and public investment in their city centre over the past decade.

This is a welcome sign of confidence. It underlines why Council is so positive about our longer-term growth prospects.

We can build on Toowoomba's enviable reputation for steady, consistent growth, which makes us an attractive and secure investment destination.

Toowoomba, Australia's Garden City, is a destination of choice where appealing lifestyle attributes will continue to attract skilled workers.

While my time as Mayor ended in the week before the Summit, I'm positive that my colleagues will continue to advocate for funding and opportunities that enhance regional Australia's enduring appeal for future investors and residents.

I wish everyone a successful summit.



Paul Antonio,
Recently retired Mayor,
Toowoomba Regional Council.

About the SEGRA Foundation

The SEGRA Foundation is a not for profit public company whose objective is to advance rural, remote and regional Australia. The Foundation is an independent and non-partisan network of Australians who connect, promote and empower rural communities and their leaders to advance their long-term interests.

The SEGRA conference, established in 1997, has been held every year and provides a unique opportunity for all sections of the Australian community, rural and urban, to explore the key issues affecting regional, rural and remote Australia and be part of providing positive sustainable outcomes to ensure future prosperity.

Members of the SEGRA Foundation Board include Simon Boughey (TAS), Ashley Bland (NSW), Charles Jenkinson (WA) and Caroline Robinson (WA). Events Director Gabrielle Major (WA).

2023 Summit Working Group Members

Tony Bowman

(Toowoomba Regional Council)

Kim Donaldson

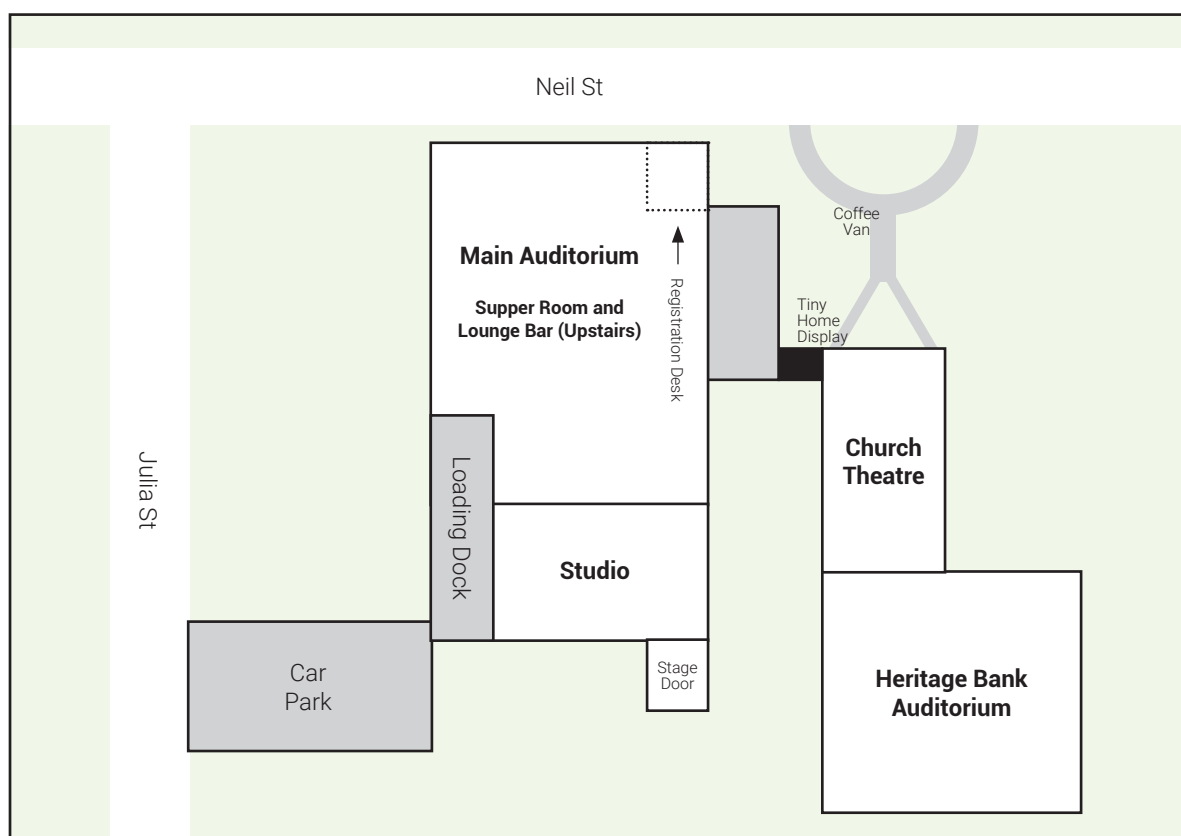
(Toowoomba Conferences)

Jennifer Rix

Todd Rohl

(Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce)

Venue Map



Summit Program - Day One

Tuesday 25th July, Welcome Soiree

5.30 - 7.00pm at George Banks Rooftop Bar

Meet members of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce at our opening event.

Wednesday 26 July: Main Stage, Empire Theatre

For the coffee lovers, 2nd Shot Coffee will be serving complimentary coffee from 7.30am to 11.30am both days of the Summit in the Empire Church grounds. Coffees have been generously sponsored by Lily's Artisan.

2nd Shot Coffee was established in 2016 as an innovative pathway, which provides hospitality training and employment opportunities to people experiencing homelessness in Toowoomba.

Catering: More than "Scones & Jam"

At this year's SEGRA Summit, at morning and afternoon tea breaks, delegates will have a chance to experience gastronomical micro bites of regional flavour. Each session will have new flavour highlight. This two day flavour journey has been created by Lily's Artisan "Catering Collective" to promote the growing and vibrant micro-business sector of the local wholefood culture. This small group of passionate food makers are collaborating on a unique taste adventure for SEGRA delegates to showcase local flavours and celebrate the food skills of passionate regional micro-businesses.

7.30am Registration in the Empire Theatre Foyer

8.30am Introduction by Di Darmody, MC

Welcome to Toowoomba, **Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan**, Toowoomba Regional Council

Welcome to Country, **Adrian Bauwens**

Presentation by **Garth Hamilton MP**, Federal Member for Groom

Influence and Engage 9.10 - 10.00am

What will we cover?

Join Federal and State politicians, advisors and advocates to answer two questions:

1. What community engagement models and strategies have been successful in rural Australia and led to influence or impact at the local, state, or national level?
2. How can we enhance participation in the policy making process and ensure that the voices of rural, remote, and regional Australia are heard?

Garth Hamilton MP

Hon Mia Davies MLA

Taz Devadass and Emilee Rigby; Futures Isle
Mayor Mathew Dickerson; Regional Capitals Australia and Dubbo Regional Council

What will we achieve?

Post Summit, attendees will receive a 'cheat sheet' on strategies to help drive change and contribute

to conversations. The Foundation will also provide feedback to State and Federal politicians on how to improve their engagement with #RRR communities.

Digital Connectivity 10.00 - 11.00am

What will we cover?

Federal and State telecommunications co-investment programs play an important role in extending and improving infrastructure in regions. In this session we will challenge investment criteria, discuss digital connectivity hub spots to encourage economic growth, education and inclusivity.

Paul Sloman; Cotton Australia/ RRRCC

Grant Higgs; NBN Co

Dr Stefan Hajkowitz; CSIRO

Matt Schultz; Gravelroad Group

What will we achieve?

Information from this audience activity will help inform the work of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition and the RAI's Regionalisation Ambition 2032 (Liveability).

Morning Tea 11.00 - 11.30am, Empire Church

Jobs and Skills 11.30am - 1.00pm

What will we cover?

Summit attendees will shape ten workforce problem statements for this session through a pre-Summit survey. The problem statements will be focused on seasonal workers, childcare, engaging an ageing workforce, attracting skilled professionals to inland communities, a stable health workforce and more.

Sheree Vertigan; University of Tasmania and Cradle Coast Authority

Joshua Rayner; Jobs Queensland

Griffin Longley; Minderoo Foundation

What will we achieve?

Work directly with government, private industry and not for profit organisations to identify practical workforce solutions that can be applied in your region. SEGRA will collate the solutions and provide to attendees post Summit as well as relevant stakeholders for further development.

Lunch 1.00 - 2.00pm, Empire Church

Economic Development 2.00 - 3.30pm

What will we cover?

In this session you will learn how co-operatives, mutuals and community foundations can build strong communities and local economies including addressing market failure.

Maria-Ann Camilleri; Heritage Bank

Natalie Browning; CBH

Melina Morrison; Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals

Michael Hampson; NORCO

Liz Thomas; Common Equity Housing

What will we achieve?

Summit attendees will receive case studies and resources on locally owned and led governance structures that can save the 'country pub' and tackle large scale issues including housing availability.

Breakouts

Lounge Bar - *Central East Aged Care Alliance*, presented by **Hon Mia Davies MLA**

Studio Room - *Rental Housing Cooperatives – the Missing Middle*, presented by **Liz Thomas**, Common Equity Housing

Supper Room - *Care Together*, presented by **Melina Morrison**, Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals

Church Theatre - *QLD Connects: Strategies to Re-engage Youth*, presented by **Luke Sinclair**, Central Queensland University, **Helen Burrell** and **Jacki Steel**, Advance Queensland

Main stage - *Co-operatives, Collaboration and Landscape Impact*, presented by **Andrew Ward**, Regen Farmers Mutual

Heritage Bank Auditorium - *Filling the Gaps: How Community Foundations Get Creative to Meet Local Need*, presented by **Melinda Jones**, Red Earth Foundation and **Rosie Funder**, Community Foundations Australia

Afternoon Tea 3.30 - 4.00pm, Empire Church

Closing Remarks 4.00 - 4.30pm

At the end of day one, join us for a tour of the QANTAS Pilot Training Facility, or Composite Fibre Technologies, or Pulse Data Centre.

Tours will be followed by a networking dinner in the Wellcamp Airport terminal, the first privately funded public airport with guest speaker **John Wagner**. Transfers included (please be outside Empire Theatre at 4.15pm, returning at 8.30pm)



Summit Program - Day Two

Breakfast with Mark McCrindle

6.45 - 8.00am at OAKS. Tickets through Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce

7.30am Registration in the Heritage Bank Foyer

Thursday 27 July 2023

In the Heritage Bank Auditorium - Program Commences 9.00am

Attendees will gain an insight into **Toowoomba's economic development strategy** with Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce and Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise.

This will be followed by an examination of **wellbeing indexes with Dr Geoff Woolcock** from the Australian National Development Index. Prior to morning tea we will take a closer look at the potential for **circular economies in rural Australia with a panel featuring Bernardo Tobias, OzHarvest, Jamie Ferguson, Mort & Co, Bernadette McCabe and Dr Tristan Shelley**, from the University of Southern Queensland

Morning Tea 10.45 - 11.15am, Empire Church

Concurrent Sessions 11.15am - 12.30pm

Each presenter is allocated 15 minutes. You are welcome to move between rooms at these times.

1. Waste Management

Location: Lounge Bar

Food waste and insecurity in Australia, Bernardo Tobias, OzHarvest

NO WASTE and SIMPLE Hub, Dr Tristan Shelley, University of Southern Queensland

Powering the food waste agenda in regional Australia – a circular economy approach for agriculture, Bernadette McCabe, University of Southern Queensland

Mort & Co rewriting the story, Jamie Ferguson, Mort & Co

Applying circular thinking across the community to design out waste, Kate Shaw RDA South West

2. Mentoring and Career Development

Location: Heritage Bank Auditorium

Empowering young people to do and be connected, Adam Mostogl, illuminate Education Australia

Wheatbelt and Beyond Youth Mentoring to broaden aspirations and opportunities of regional, rural and remote young people, Karen Strange and Janine Dayman, WBYM

Grow your own workforce, Toni Kely-Brown, Queensland Health and Vicky Meyer, CheckUP

The Hub: The solution to the medical rural workforce crisis? Or just another Band Aid? Dr Michael Livingston and Rachel Livingston, Livingston Medical

Summit Program - Day Two

3. Events and Tourism

Location: Supper Room

How to support regional tourism businesses to grow,

Susan Lee, Clear Vision Consulting

Grow and prosper; Beyond the Twelve Apostles, Justine Linley, Corangamite Shire Council

Create a sustainable visitor economy by putting the visitor at the centre using the THRIVE 2030 Geotourism Strategy, Caroline Falkiner, NAVEZE

Using data to maximise the visitor economy, Peter Homan, Southern Queensland Country Tourism

Sharing the art of nature journaling through the Genestreams Public Art Trails, Ben Beeton, Genestreams Sculptures

4. Migration and Multiculturalism

Location: Studio Room

Migration and multiculturalism – A match made in heaven... or in Toowoomba, Kate Venables, CatholicCare

Diversity embraced, Denise Gallanagh-Wood, Shire of Katanning

Skilled Visa information session, Yvette Adams, Business Industry and Regional Outreach, Department of Home Affairs

A story of a migrant: How the regions can support migrants through employment and training, Prince Long Lo

Regional migration: From welcoming to belonging, Cate Gilpin, Welcoming Australia

5. Business and Economic Development

Location: Empire Church

Future Lady Tradies, Kayla Hill, Aleah Hill and Taleah Pearson, FLT

Economic development and the need for strong communities partnering, Lidewij Koene-Sloss, Western Downs Regional Council

Forces for and against new business in small communities, Dr Saleena Ham, Rural Economies Centre of Excellence University of Southern Queensland

Not either or but: The challenge of maximising community benefits, Sheree Vertigan, Cradle Coast Authority

Gold Coast emerging biomedical industry – Measuring the industry's growth & projection, Estella Rodighiero, RDA Gold Coast

Lunch 12.30 - 1.30pm, Empire Church



Concurrent Sessions 1.30 - 3.15pm

1. Planning and Investment

Location: Heritage Bank Auditorium

Investment and planning for regional capital cities, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Secretary of Regional Capitals Australia and Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council

How to build a data story to attract digital investment, Matthew Schultz, Gravelroad Group

Kingaroy Community Hospital - The art of public partnership with the private sector to deliver social infrastructure outcomes, Alain Pillay, AEC Group

Sustainable Development Framework: Why and what are we doing? Claire Moore, United Nations Association of Australia (QLD)

2. Rural Workforce Development

Location: Empire Church

Rurality and workforce participation, Dr Cathy Tischler, Horsham Research Hub Federation University

Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032: A holistic approach to strengthening the current and future workforce across Queensland's regions, Brett Hall, Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business & Training (QLD)

From vision to impact: Developing and growing a place-based workforce development strategy, Rachel Whiting, RDA Riverina

Your future workforce sits in our classrooms, Arlie Hollindale, Pathways2Industry

An international perspective on rural workforce development, Dr Ayine Nigo, University of Westminster, London

3. Rural Learning and Education

Location: Supper Room

Childcare Deserts: How lack of child care is a handbrake on regional economies and what we can do about it, Griffin Longley, Thrive By Five, Minderoo Foundation

How NASA's 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle disaster is transforming STEM education in Bundaberg QLD, Ben Artup, Bunderberg Regional Council

Supporting a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ECEC workforce, Miranda Edwards, Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

The future of work is now, Joshua Rayner, Jobs Queensland

4. Community Resilience and Capacity Building

Location: Lounge Bar

Building local capacity to drive leveraged outcomes for our regions, Natalie Egleton, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

Spiralling up post disaster – why some communities bounce back faster, Kerry Grace, Evolve Network

Our pathway to enduring regional resilience, Ben Fee, RDA Murraylands and Riverland

Community foundations as backbone organisations: driving investment and building capacity in communities, Melinda Jones, Red Earth Community Foundation

Free, personalised connectivity assistance, Tegan Plant, Regional Tech Hub

5. Economic and Community Transition

Location: Studio Room

Implementing mining cultural landscapes post mine closure through the National Geotourism Strategy, Angus M Robinson, Australian Geoscience Council

Transitioning economies, Pip Kirby, South West Development Commission

Can micro precincts save small towns? Robert Prestipino, Vital Places

Rural entrepreneurship and the future of work, Clayton Neil, Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship

QLD Connects: How to unlock opportunities for economic growth, Luke Sinclair, Central Queensland University, Helen Burrell and Jacki Steel, Advance Queensland

Closing Remarks 3.15 - 4.30pm

Location: Heritage Bank Auditorium

At the end of day two we will be challenged by **Dr George Wilkinson** who will present “**Regions, get louder: Why local and regional empowerment is prerequisite to decentralisation**”.

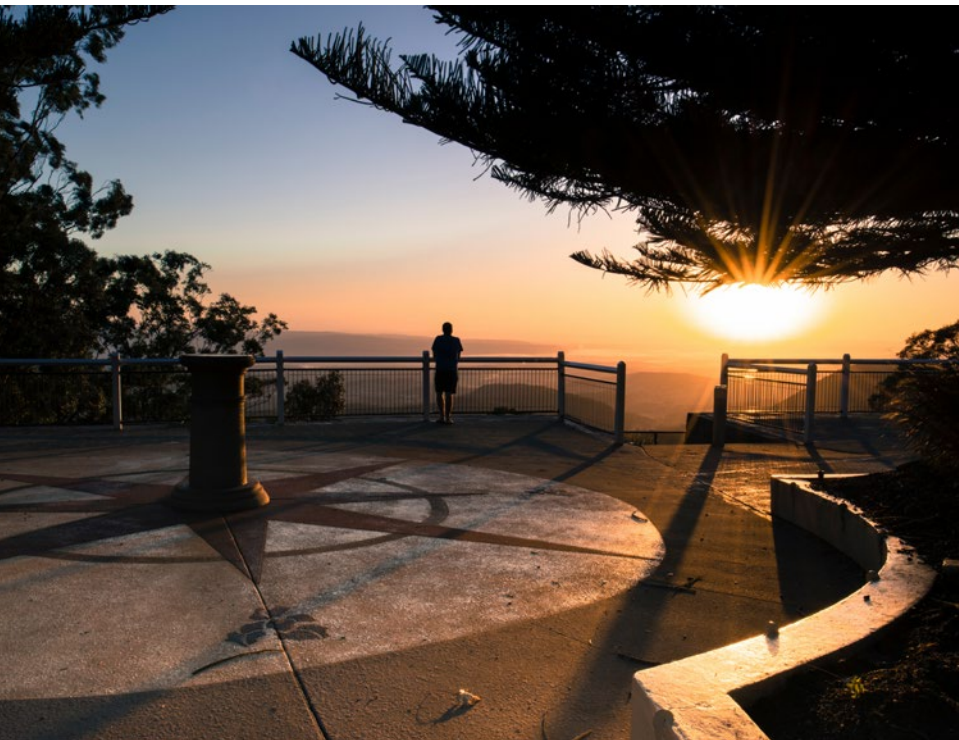
The day will culminate with a keynote address and Q and A with the **Hon Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories**, interviewed by **Caitlin Crowley, Country Caller**.



SEGRA Past Host Regions

- 1997: **The Challenges for Regional Australia** | Geelong, Victoria
- 1998: **Strategies for Success** | Beaudesert, Queensland
- 1999: **Vision and Imagination Driving Regional Australia** | Sunshine Coast, Queensland
- 2000: **Regions Taking Control** | Ballarat, Victoria
- 2001: **Regions Driving Decision Making** | Thuringowah, Queensland
- 2002: **Smart Paths to Regional Growth** | Queanbeyan, New South Wales
- 2003: **Building Resilient Regions** | Gold Coast, Queensland
- 2004: **Big Ideas for Regional Australia** | Alice Springs, Northern Territory
- 2005: **Sustainable Regional Development: getting down to business** | Rockhampton, Queensland
- 2006: **Adaptable Regions: open minds open opportunities** | Launceston, Tasmania
- 2007: **Changing Regions: the road to success** | Wollongong, New South Wales
- 2008: **Creative Solutions: expect them to be different** | Albury, New South Wales
- 2009: **Regional Australia: exploring new frontiers** | Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia
- 2010: **Regions: delivering a big Australia** | Townsville, Queensland
- 2011: **Promoting Regional Australia: regions and their cities** | Geelong, Victoria
- 2012: **Maximising Leverage Opportunities for Your Region** | Terrigal, New South Wales
- 2013: **Regions: unleashing their mojo in an interconnected world** | Coffs Harbour, New South Wales
- 2014: **Connecting Matters** | Alice Springs, Northern Territory
- 2015: **Leading and Growing Sustainable Regions** | Bathurst, New South Wales
- 2016: **Naturally Stronger Regions: realising the potential** | Albany, Western Australia
- 2017: **Disruption: a catalyst for change** | Upper Spencer Gulf, South Australia
- 2018: **Beyond the Boom: opportunity for growth and vitality** | Mackay QLD
- 2019: **Rivers of Opportunity: activating your potential** | Barooga NSW
- 2020: **Collaboration: amplifying regional advantage** | Mount Gambier, Limestone Coast SA
- 2021: **Unearthing Diversification and Adapting to a New Tomorrow** | Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia
- 2022: **Regional Activity Transition and Sustainability** | Devonport, Tasmania





This event was made possible thanks to

