

## RDA LIMESTONE COAST BOARD MEETING

### DALE BAKER RESIGNS FROM RDA BOARD

Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast held its Board Meeting in Kingston on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2010.

Deputy Chair, Mark Braes presided over the meeting and, with sadness, accepted the resignation of inaugural Chair, Mr Dale Baker, due to his ill health. All Members acknowledged the contribution made to the region by Mr Baker throughout his five years at the helm of the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board/Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast. "Dale's leadership and passion for the region will be sorely missed and, on behalf of Members and Staff, I thank Dale for his tireless work and commitment to the development of the Limestone Coast region." Mr Braes said.

As required under the Regional Development Australia arrangements, all three levels of Government will now undertake a process to replace Mr Baker with Mr Braes carrying out the role of Acting Chair in the interim.

Over the past 3 months, Members and Staff have been focused on setting the strategic direction for the Board with considerable time spent in consulting with the community on issues and opportunities and developing planning documents. With operational documents adopted at the April meeting, the Board will now turn its attention to the development of a "Regional Roadmap". This document will be a comprehensive overview of the region, its attributes, industry and employment base and will also set out the key economic, social and environmental issues for the region. The Roadmap, which will be a published document available to the community, will be outcomes focused for the RDA and other regional organisations to implement. The document will be visionary in terms of where the RDA will seek to position the region into the future. The Regional Roadmap will be completed at the end of August 2010.

Members also received an informative presentation from Mr Terry Strickland, Executive Officer of the South East Resource Information Centre (SERIC). SERIC provides access to a wide range of information and data sets that are GIS (spatially) available. The role of SERIC in aiding economic and community development was outlined, including an example of how the region's plantation timber resources have been mapped and translated into data which assists regional freight and transport infrastructure planning.

***For further information contact:-***

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