Submission No 44

INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW

Organisation: Broken Hill City Council

Date received: 30/07/2012

www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au

Broken Hill City Council

... a safe, vibrant, prosperous and culturally rich City achieved through community leadership and sustainable management.

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Ask For Mr. F. Zaknich

July 24, 2012

The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: statedevelopment@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Director,

Adequacy of Water Storages in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission to the inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW.

Council views the adequate store of water in NSW as a key enabling infrastructure for the City of Broken Hill and region and a critical part of retaining and attracting residents, business and industry to Far West NSW.

Background

The City

The City of Broken Hill (area 179sq km) is the largest regional centre in the western half of New South Wales. It lies in the centre of the sparsely settled New South Wales Outback, close to the South Australian border and midway between the Queensland and Victorian borders. The nearest large population centre is Mildura in Victoria, 300 kms distant to the south on the Murray River. The nearest large city is Adelaide, capital of South Australia, approximately 500 kms to the southwest. Because of its location Broken Hill has strong cultural and historical connections with South Australia. The city area is surrounded by and is a regional service centre to the Unincorporated Area of NSW and adjoining shire and district communities.

The most recent estimates place the population at 20,000. This represents a 30% decline since 1971, mainly related to the decline in the local mining industry. However, in recent years the population has stabilised somewhat and the rate of decline has slowed. Mining development and exploration activity both in the City and surrounding region has seen resurgence during the past few years around high commodity prices - the cycle continues as it has in the City for the past 130 years, and remains buoyant for the foreseeable term.

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Tourism is widely regarded as a strong performer and not subject to the impacts of the mining industry. Although the industry across NSW has been negatively affected by drought, floods and the exchange rate, a number of national and international factors have helped to increase visitor numbers to Broken Hill and region over recent years with total visitors to Outback NSW increasing from 614,000 in 2009 to 681,000 in 2010 (11% increase) and settling at around 675,000 in 2011.

Current nomination of Broken Hill for national heritage listing if successful will see "the Hill that changed a nation" rightly recognised for its place and role in the nation's development.

Council infrastructure improvements together with film making, retail and major renewable energy developments (solar and wind) in and around the City will also mean a vibrant and culturally rich Broken Hill will continue to be a liveable regional city for the longer term.

The Organisation

Broken Hill City Council is an award winning organisation recognised by the local government industry and other levels of government and industry sectors in NSW, nationally and internationally with a range of impressive achievements over many years.

Council currently employs 275 full time, part time and casual employees, giving a total of 237equivalent full time employees.

Council provides a significant range of services to the city and regional community. Council operates a broad "services to property and people" portfolio of community business and invests heavily in social capital.

Council presently owns or manages infrastructure assets of $231M and faces juggling competing community needs and priorities within a limited financial resource base.

Council's annual operating budget is approximately $33M (2011). Income from rates and annual charges is in the order of $13M or 40% of its total annual revenue. The balance of income is primarily from Commonwealth and State Government operating grants and contributions ($11.2M) and user charges and fees ($4M).

This collectively means that service provision and asset management in particular within this environment is a major challenge for the organisation.

Council's challenge is to continue to adjust to change after years of population decline and effectively manage its community assets - in a demanding environment for provision of services with increasing government and community accountability.

Our Vision

> ***"Broken Hill will be a safe, vibrant, prosperous and culturally rich City through community leadership and sustainable management"***

In line with this Vision, the Council aims that Broken Hill in 2022 will be a community that boasts:

- a stable or increasing population;
- a more balanced age structure, especially by retaining young people;
- an expanding economy;
- an increase in employment and education opportunities;
- a safe environment in which to live; and

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- a range of services that is comparable with those enjoyed by larger communities, including cultural, community and recreational services.

Council will be an organisation with:

- strong and effective leadership;
- a healthy and sustainable financial position;
- a safe workplace;
- a highly skilled and motivated workforce;
- a set of satisfied customers; and
- cost efficient and effective business processes.

Our Mission

> ***"Council will provide responsive community leadership and high quality services in a sustainable manner to maintain and enhance Broken Hill's lifestyle"***

Terms of Reference

That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into the report on the adequacy of water storages in NSW, and in particular:

(a) the capacity of existing water storages to meet agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental needs,

(b) models for determining water requirements for the agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental sectors

(c) storage management practices to optimise water supply to the agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental sectors,

(d) proposals for the construction and/or augmentation of water storages in NSW with regard to storage efficiency, engineering feasibility, safety, community support and cost benefit,

(e) water storages and management practices in other Australian and international jurisdictions,

(f) any other matter relating to the adequacy of water storages in NSW.

What is Council requesting the Government to consider?

Broken Hill's Water Supply and the Menindee Lakes System – (Darling River Water Savings Project (DRWSP))

The critical issue for Broken Hill is quality of Broken Hill's water supply – the Darling River source is often the most saline and turbid supply in the Murray Darling Basin.

In terms of a dedicated quality water supply for Broken Hill , utilisation of the deeper storages (Lake Tandure/Lake Wetherell) in concert with local storages in Broken Hill (Stephens Creek and Umberumberka) continues to be supported. Cont...

A revisiting of the possible extension or duplication of the Umberumberka storage based around the excellent catchment and quality water supply is encouraged.

Council remains concerned to ensure that the required economic modelling (including operating costs) and hydrology assessments must have regard to the long term impacts on water users in what has historically been a subsidised water supply environment.

Council is concerned that the earlier DRWSP suggested operational use of reverse osmosis or managed aquifer recharge proposals (as opposed to drought supply activation only) will add significant and unsustainable costs to water users and long term operating costs must be realistically balanced against capital project costs and the water savings objectives of the project. While there appeared to be a commitment (under the now defunct Commonwealth/NSW MOU) to assist costs of the recharge project for the first five years, there is no ongoing commitment.

The extensive cost involved in operating a Reverse Osmosis/Aquifer Recharge plant; the cost to the community; and the process for disposal of associated solids and brine.

While Council welcomes the reported draft findings of significant groundwater resources in the Menindee Lakes area and notes that a closed aquifer may well be one of the most efficient systems, the arguments against it (for other than drought supply activation only) are supported because of the cost of water and the social effects, including job losses, if the Menindee Lakes are closed down or operations largely curtailed.

The Australian Government's 2010 media release "Progress on Menindee Lakes" regarding the use of groundwater supplies; a substantial amount of work will be required to prove the adequacy of an aquifer to meet the supply needs of the City of Broken Hill and its surrounding mining operations; and that this would need to be large enough to compensate the lakes being drawn down to 100GL.

Any significant changes to the storage volume and/or operational characteristics of the Menindee Lakes will require amendment to the Murray Darling Water Sharing agreement (480/640 GL - where control passes to the NSW Government when storage reaches low levels) and Council is concerned that if the agreement is altered and the control rests with some other authority then this may have a significant impact on the interaction with the system as a whole including the trigger points associated with the additional flows for South Australia.

The proposed efforts to secure water savings from a single source (Menindee Lakes) appears to be clouding the broader issue that the Menindee Lakes are integral to the system as a whole. The broader environmental, social and economic impacts must also be considered and the whole system needs to be managed in harmony – Dartmouth, Hume, Murray River, Menindee Lakes and the Darling River and Lake Victoria.

Comparative Analysis for Potential Menindee Lakes (ML) Schemes – Council has strong concerns regarding the proposal of rapid draw down of Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla to 100GL which would adversely affect the security of Broken Hill's water supply.

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Reducing the use of Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla (without targeted infrastructure works) would result in the lakes becoming a dry habitat and would not result in savings as the ability to draw water out of the lakes would diminish. The only way to make savings of 200GL will be to by-pass Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla; and that this by-pass is not environmentally, economically or socially acceptable.

There is a strong argument for a channel out of the bottom of Lake Cawndilla back to the Darling River, with the addition of other or improved channels to access otherwise "dead" water and a regulator, all of the water can be accessed downstream because Lake Cawndilla is more efficient and deeper than Lake Menindee.

The population trend used in the DRWSP project to date is significantly lower than that of even the low case scenario for the Far West Growth and Investment Strategy (FWGIS – copy of latest update attached). Further, Council reiterates that on this basis and having due regard to the environmental (dust and environmental lead) and aesthetic (greening of the city) project objectives that the current licensed capacity of 10GL/annum for Broken Hill must be maintained for storage/supply design purposes.

In relation to the DRWSP projects stated objective of "contribute to the economic development in the region" Council continues to have concerns with the lack of attention by the project to the economic and social impacts of the proposals to minimise or reduce the operation of the Menindee Lakes system. These concerns need to be addressed in more detail as part of the Standing Committee process, strategies and outcomes. Council notes that further work has been undertaken in this regard by the CSIRO.

The Menindee Lakes provide a strong focus for economic development; recreation and tourism which help support the local and regional economies and in particular contribute to the employment, retention and attraction of residents to the region. The key social and recreational infrastructure, uniquely provided by the Menindee Lakes is critical in order to retain not only residents but a range of cultural heritage, environmental, social and economic values as well. Council requests that the Basin Plan critically assess the component options recommending changed or reduced Menindee Lakes operations to clearly identify the socio-economic impact of such options. Council notes that further work has been undertaken in this regard by the CSIRO.

The concept of proposed MDBA Basin Plan local watering plans needs more detail and refinement to assist Council, community and investor understanding and real partnerships for a sustainable basin.

The increased demand (based on key environmental watering sites – wetlands and the like) and allocation of environmental water is an important component of the draft Basin Plan. Council is keen to ensure that the model outcomes for the Darling River Anabranch and Talyawalka Creek are achievable based on initial assessment.

Council supports the Menindee Lakes Region being listed as an Icon or RAMSAR listed site to protect it because of its ecological and cultural heritage values and noting that listed sites and social and economic activity can co-exist in such an environment.

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Council supports a replacement weir at Wilcannia and the water security, environmental, economic and social benefits that the redevelopment will bring to the township.

Thank you again for the opportunity to reiterate Council's position relative to the adequacy of water storages in NSW.

Council looks forward to progressing the key issues raised in partnership with the NSW Government to best effect.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK ZAKNICH
GENERAL MANAGER

Regional Development Australia FAR WEST NSW

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: FAR WEST REGION NSW

Major Projects

The reactivation of mining projects in Broken Hill during 2011 that were placed in care and maintenance back in 2008 has resulted in strong investment in the Far West Region and is a positive indicator for future growth.

The expansion of Broken Hill Operation's **Rasp Mine** in Broken Hill was approved by the NSW Government in early 2011 with construction commencing shortly afterwards. It is expected to be operational by mid 2012.

Perilya commenced the redevelopment of the **Potosi Mine** in early 2011 with the mine expected to begin operations in 2013. Strong growth in global silver prices has also resulted in the company considering reopening the **North Mine** with a decision expected in late 2011.

Uranium One's **Honeymoon Mine** commenced operations in July 2011 and has an expected mine life of approximately 10 years.

Carpentaria Exploration is currently undertaking feasibility assessments for the **Hawsons Iron Project**, 60km south-west of Broken Hill. The project has the potential to be a multi-billion dollar investment for the region. This project is part of the Braemar Iron Alliance, which has been formed to facilitate iron ore developments in NSW and SA.

Bemax Resources is currently undertaking feasibility studies into the potential development of their **Atlas – Campaspe** mineral sands deposits located south-east of Broken Hill.

The **Broken Hill Plaza Shopping Centre** is due to commence construction in late 2011 with retail operations to begin in mid-late 2012. The shopping centre will greatly increase the retail sector in the region and support approximately 300 jobs.

The table below provides a summary of the major projects planned for the Far West Region that are currently active and where project data was available. The map (opposite) indicates the location of the mining and energy developments.

Only projects where updated data was made available have been included in the economic impact modelling. This has been done to ensure a conservative estimate of economic impacts while ensuring that projections are based on current and reliable data. Mining and renewable energy projects included in previous editions of the study that have been removed due to lack of available data include Epuron's **Silverton Wind Farm** and Havilah's **Kalkaroo**, **Mutooroo**, **Oban** and **Benagerie (Portia)** projects.

Projects that were commenced after 2006 and that are fully operational are also included in the modelling based on their expected operational life. These projects include Bemax Resource's **Snapper Mine**, Pinnacle's **Edwards Pit Project**, Exco's **White Dam Mine** and Broken Hill City Council's **Aquatic Centre** and **Film Studio**.

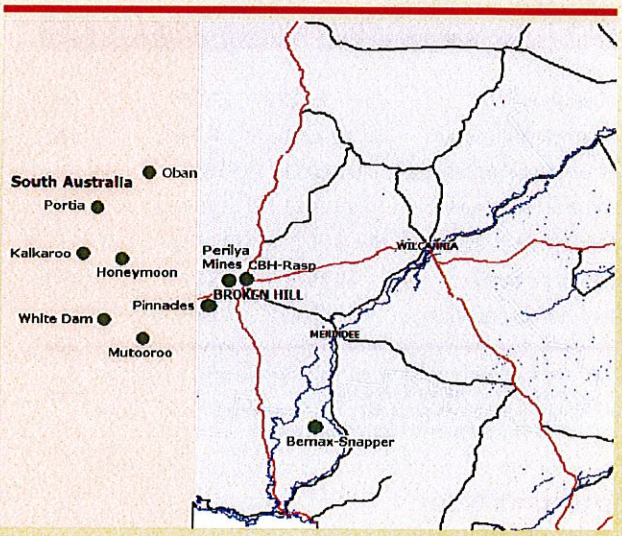


Table 1: Planned Major Projects Included in Economic Impact Modelling

Company	Project	Probability	Construction Phase				Operation Phase				
			Year Start	Total $m	Region $m	Jobs	Year Start	Life Years	Total $m	Region $m	Jobs
Uranium One	Honeymoon	High	2009	$138	$48	120	2011	10	$32	$2	85
Leasecorp	Plaza Shopping Centre	High	2011	$18	$13	85	2012	40+	$12	$4	290
Broken Hill Operations	Rasp	High	2011	$150	$45	90	2012	13	$58	$35	165
Perilya	Potosi	High	2011	$43	$26	90	2013	3	$60	$36	90(a)
Bemax Resources	Atlas	Low	2013	$138	$28	200	2014	15	$82	$21	193
Carpentaria Exploration	Hawsons Iron Ore	Low	2013	$2,700	$945	1,000	2016	50	$600	$300	700

Note: All data is valid as of 31st October 2011. (a) Estimated using input-output model and industry benchmarking.

Regional Development Australia
FAR WEST NSW

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: FAR WEST REGION NSW

Growth Indicators

The economic indicators outlined in the table below demonstrate the continued strong performance of the Far West Region's economy. The unemployment rate in the region was recorded at 8.5% in the June Quarter 2011, a 0.3% decline over the last 12 months.

Demand for housing recorded strong growth with a median house price of $134,000 in the June Quarter 2011. Investment in residential building has been particularly strong with the value of new residential building approvals more than doubling during 2010-11 as a result of confidence returning to the market and the construction of teacher housing units. Non-residential building approvals were a different story, slowing considerably during 2010-11.

The Broken Hill Airport has continued to experience steady growth in passenger numbers due to the increase in services and airline capacity. Over 63,000 passengers passed through the airport in 2010-11, an increase of 4.3% from the previous year.

Table 2: Key Economic Indicators

Indicator	Period	Level	Ann % Chg
Population	2010	22,584	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate	Jun Q 2011	8.5%	-0.3%
New Residential Approvals	2010-11	$15.2M	128.7%
Commercial Approvals	2010-11	$11.4M	-57.6%
Median House Price	Mar Q 2011	$133,500	37.6%
Overnight Visitors[a]	2010-11	435,000	-0.9%
Broken Hill Airport RPT	2010-11	63,098	4.3%

Note: All data is valid as of 31st October 2011. RPT – Regular Passenger Transport passengers (a) Outback Tourism Region.
Source: ABS 3218.0, DEEWR SALM, ABS 8731.0, NSW Department of Housing, Tourism NSW, Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics

Tourism Sector

The tourism sector is a key driver of the Far West Region economy. The Far West Region forms part of the Outback NSW Tourism Region that also includes Balranald, Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Walgett and Wentworth.

In the year ending June 2011 there were an estimated 435,000 domestic overnight visitors to Outback NSW, down by 0.9% from the previous year. International visitors represent a small proportion of overnight visitation with 14,200 visitors in the year ending June 2011.

Domestic overnight visitors were estimated to have added $199M to the Outback NSW economy in the year ending June 2011, an increase of 12.3% from the previous year. The significant increase in the amount of water within the Menindee Lakes is expected to result in increased visitation to the region.

Infrastructure Developments

Investment in infrastructure is strong in the Far West Region with several major projects having recently been completed, in progress and in the planning process including:

- The redevelopment of the Broken Hill Regional Aquatic Centre is in the final stages of construction. The project will complete the $10 million transformation of the old North Family Play Centre Pool to a multi-faceted Aquatic Centre. The construction of an enclosure for the 25 metre pool and a new indoor hydrotherapy pool are centrepieces of the development.
- The Broken Hill Airport runway is scheduled to be resealed in late 2011 to ensure safe future air traffic operation.
- Development planning of a Heavy Vehicle Haulage Road to improve the movement of heavy vehicles in and around Broken Hill.

Water Availability

During the last decade, the Menindee Lakes have been dry as a result of the prolonged drought in the Far West Region. Major rainfall in the catchment area led to a significant inflow of water starting in early 2010 resulting in the lakes reaching full capacity in late 2010. The increased availability of water in the region is likely to have contributed to the significant impact on the economy including agriculture and tourism.

The availability of water improves the profitability of farming with major agricultural producers such as Tandou looking to increase irrigated cropping in the coming years. The Menindee Lakes have continued to receive inflows through winter ensuring water availability for the 2012 and 2013 crops. As a result of water availability, Tandou has been able to increase its productive area with the rotational planting of 2,400 hectares of winter cereal crop. The company currently employs approximately 55 workers.

The availability of water in the Menindee Lakes is expected to result in significant growth in tourism visitation to the Far West Region. The Menindee Lakes are an iconic ecological asset of national significance and have the potential to support a vibrant tourism sector built around bird watching, indigenous tourism, ecotourism and recreation. The water security has the potential to facilitate investment in tourism operations in Menindee and the surrounding region which could create job opportunities.

Regional Development Australia FAR WEST NSW

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: FAR WEST REGION NSW

Economic Impacts

The economic impact modelling assesses projected impacts of major projects on the Far West Region from the base year of 2006 used in the original study. The region recorded economic and employment growth in 2007 and 2008 as construction commenced on several projects, before declining in 2009 as the mining industry contracted significantly as a result of existing mining companies resizing operations in late 2008.

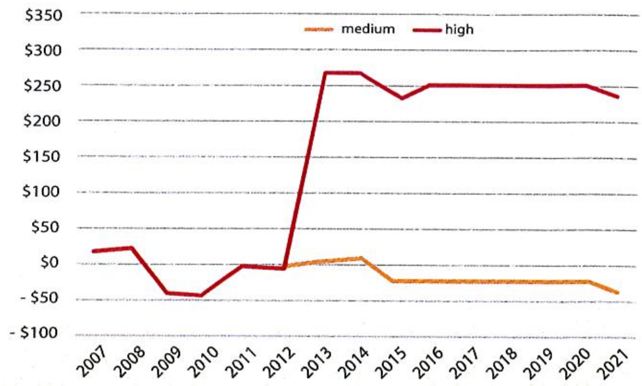
In previous years, the analysis has included a low, medium and high scenario based on the probability of certain projects proceeding. This year, all projects are either in progress (operational or under construction) or in the feasibility stage - meaning there is considerable uncertainty regarding their future development. Therefore, only two scenarios have been included this year comprising a medium scenario with the projects that are operational or under construction and a high scenario with all proposed projects with available expenditure and employment estimates.

The economic impacts in gross regional product (GRP) for the Far West Region of major projects in 2012 are expected to almost negate the negative impacts caused by the mine closures in 2008 (see **Figure 1**).

Employment in the Far West Region is projected to increase by up to 226 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in 2012 based on the medium scenario. The employment breakdown includes 143 direct jobs and 83 flow-on jobs with the total representing growth of 2.3% from 2006 (see **Figure 2**).

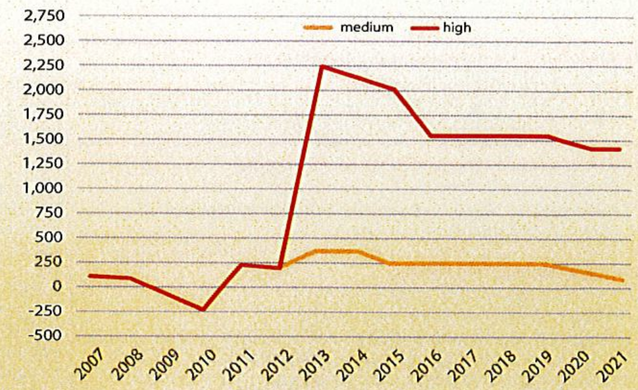
Table 3 below provides an overview of projected changes in employment by industry from the base in 2006. Employment in the mining sector is expected to partially recover in the medium term as new projects commence, though not to the 2006 level, unless downsized operations recommence full operations. In the short term, the construction sector is projected to record growth with the development of new projects, while the highest flow-on employment growth is expected in the retail trade and arts and recreation sectors.

Figure 1: Projected Change in GRP ($m)



Note: Change from 2006. Scenarios based on the assumed probability of major projects commencing

Figure 2: Projected Change in Employment (FTE)



Note: Change from 2006. Scenarios based on the assumed probability of major projects commencing.

Table 3: Projected Additional FTE Employment (Medium Scenario)

	Report Base Year	Additional Employment			Avg. Annual %
Sector	2006	2011	2016	2021	2006 to 2021
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	730	4	1	-1	-0.01%
Mining	655	-186	-66	-151	-1.73%
Manufacturing	376	17	-4	-9	-0.15%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	229	3	-1	-1	-0.03%
Construction	497	273	-3	-4	-0.05%
Wholesale Trade	298	6	-1	-2	-0.05%
Retail Trade	1,678	16	290	285	1.05%
Accommodation and Food Services	652	10	0	-3	-0.03%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	390	9	0	-2	-0.04%
Information Media and Telecommunications	99	5	1	-1	-0.06%
Financial and Insurance Services	164	9	-1	-3	-0.12%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	99	6	0	-1	-0.06%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	209	31	0	-6	-0.21%
Administrative and Support Services	292	1	0	0	0.00%
Public Administration and Safety	834	1	0	-1	0.00%
Education and Training	787	6	1	-2	-0.01%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,439	6	0	-2	-0.01%
Arts and Recreation Services	143	23	50	30	1.26%
Other Services	456	8	0	-3	-0.04%
Total	**10,027**	**249**	**266**	**124**	**0.08%**

Strategy Update

Strategy/Action	12 Month Progress Report	Planned Actions for Next 12 Months
Promote Knowledge Development & Dissemination 1. Identify information requirements for government, business and investors. 2. Identify information/knowledge gaps. 3. Consult and involve stakeholders in data/information collection. 4. Collaborate with partner organisations to collate/prepare required data. 5. Collaborate with partner organisations to disseminate information.	An efficient e-Newsletter capability developed. All key contacts for region have been identified. Social media platform development to be completed by calendar year end. Key stakeholders fully consulted for input on submissions to Governments.	Regular, efficient communications will continue with all key stakeholders. Submissions and other forms of information feedback to governments will continue. Targeted contacts will continue with market participants as appropriate.
Facilitate Industry and Community Engagement 1. Inform, involve and collaborate with key stakeholders.	Through RDA Far West and Digital Economy and Skills Working Groups.	Key strategies in place and implementation commenced.
Build Community Capacity 1. Assess community capacity in terms of skills gaps. 2. Facilitate community workshops and seminars.	Working Group established. Stakeholders consulted.	Ongoing data collection, analysis. Ongoing partnership with Federal and State agencies, stakeholders.
Support and Assist Existing Business 1. Consult with local business owners regarding opportunities and issues. 2. Develop strategies to capitalise on opportunities and mitigate threats. 3. Build linkages and networks between local businesses.	Ongoing through RDA Far West, Chamber of Commerce and Digital Economy and Skills Working Group.	Targeted actions to be pursued during 2012 and beyond.
Attract and Encourage New Businesses 1. Profile current business base and identify target businesses and needs. 2. Identify and set aside specific requirements for target businesses. 3. Market to target sectors. 4. Facilitate relocation activities.	Ongoing through RDA Far West, BHCC, Digital Economy and Skills Working Group Delegations to potential funding bodies	Update Profile Ready to commence Planned approaches to market participants during 2012 and beyond in targeted areas
Promote Economic Development and Diversification 1. Identify specific economic development initiatives. 2. Engage with relevant stakeholders. 3. Review regional economic plan.	Ongoing through RDA Far West, BHCC, Digital Economy and Skills Working Group	RDA Far West and all regional stakeholders are engaged in Regional Plan activities during 2012 and beyond
Facilitate Infrastructure Provision and Development 1. Identify critical infrastructure gaps. 2. Work with partners to develop strategies for infrastructure development. 3. Develop and implement mitigation/development strategies.	Airport Master Plan Ongoing through RDA Far West, Digital Economy and Skills Working Group	Natural gas feasibility; integrated transport study to be pursued
Ensure Land Use Efficiency and Resource Protection 1. Identify potential land needs. 2. Engage with the NSW Department of Lands regarding tenure. 3. Develop Draft LEP for Broken Hill City.	Completed Completed In progress	LEP rezoning completed LEP rezoning completed Completion by July 2012
Attract and Retain Skilled Labour 1. Increase the availability of labour. 2. Attraction of skilled persons to the region. 3. Consider overseas recruitment options. 4. Improve the effectiveness of the local training system. 5. Increase training investment by the private sector. 6. Increase indigenous participation in the workforce. 7. Support skills strategies from other levels of government.	Direct discussions with mining, agriculture and other employers in region occur regularly with RDA Far West NSW. Training and education service providers including schools, TAFE and Robinson College are kept informed of emerging industry skills needs. Skilled migration applications to the region are facilitated by RDA Far West NSW. During 2010-11, 14 applications for jobs in the region were processed.	An education, jobs and skills coordinator has been appointed for the region (Dubbo-based) and maintains regular contact with RDA Far West NSW and training and education representatives. A consultancy in the region funded by the NSW Government has recommended future employment facilitation actions that can progress during 2012 and beyond. These include actions to (a) reduce unemployment (b) increase links between training and employment (c) target training to meet industry needs as needed and (d) improve local services in remote towns.
Attract Investment and Financing 1. Establish a working group to identify strategic investment opportunities. 2. Develop website for investment promotion and conduct developer tours. 3. Provide the required management support for the project.	RDA Far West NSW Regional Plan 2011-21 developed Website improvements ongoing, digital economy strategy being developed for region Ongoing	Target key areas highlighted in the Plan. Digital economy strategy for Far West NSW and Broken Hill City Council will be completed and implemented during 2012 and beyond. Ongoing

Contacts and Support

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BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL
Regional Development Australia FAR WEST NSW
AECgroup Outcome Driven

Profile compiled by AECgroup. Published by Regional Development Australia Far West NSW and Broken Hill City Council in November 2011. RDA Far West NSW, Broken Hill City Council and AECgroup would like to thank all organisations contributing to this profile.