

REGIONAL JOBS SUMMIT

NORTH WEST REGION OF NSW

Some 50 representatives of industry, regional communities and government and employment and education sectors will participate in the Regional Jobs Summit at Narrabri.

AgriFood Skills Australia in conjunction with the Northern Inland Regional Development Board will convene a Regional Jobs Summit in Narrabri, NSW, on Friday, 3 July 2009.

The objective is to identify the full range of employment opportunities and seasonal worker demand – from all industries – across the north-west region of NSW, and covers the whole of the northern inland region of NSW.

Our research suggests that the agrifood industry will be in a position to offer jobs to people displaced from other areas by the downturn. Our national consultations for the 2009 Environmental Scan 2009 *Assuming the mantle* revealed broad optimism about the capacity of the industry to be able to continue to grow and trade profitably, and to retain and grow its workforce. These findings are contained in *Assuming the mantle*, copies of which are available on request.

Hence Australia's agrifood industry is well placed to facilitate the uptake of displaced workers from other industries into the agriculture, horticulture and food and meat processing industries. AgriFood Skills Australia has initiated and - in partnership with industry, employers, government, training providers, employment agencies and the community - will hold a regional jobs summit to identify jobs for people displaced from jobs.

NARRABRI NSW Friday **3 July** 2009

Riverview Room

Crossing Theatre, 117 Tibbereena Street

Narrabri NSW 2390

REGIONAL JOBS SUMMIT

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Key points

- > It will reflect a collaborative partnership between *local* employers, regional training organisations, employment organisations and governments, facilitated by AgriFood Skills Australia
- > It brings together all major industries in the region – including agriculture, food, tourism, retail, gas, coal and research and development
- > The aim is to get all the major players in one room to find concrete solutions – *to get displaced workers into jobs speedily*
- > There are a number of policy impediments to assisting labour force development and up-skilling, particularly in regional Australia. These need to be identified and action taken at a regional, national and government level
- > The summit will seek to establish an ongoing mechanism that will enable continuous jobs identification by companies so job seekers can be placed promptly into sustainable jobs
- > The summit in Narrabri will provide the starting point for a more in-depth strategy for skills development in the region based on regional partnerships
- > The summit will set the groundwork for a national regional skills and workforce strategy and provide guidance for the conducting of job summits in other regions of Australia

A national jobs summit will be held in Melbourne in early August. Taking account of the outcomes of the Narrabri summit, the national summit will bring national industry and employer leaders and federal and state bodies together to focus on identifying and addressing operational and policy impediments prior to extending regional job summits to other regions.

CONTACT

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Agenda

- 8.30 am Registration and coffee
- 9 am Forum Welcome and Welcome to Country
- 9.10 am **SESSION 1**
Setting the Scene
A brief overview - the current economic climate, the region and work opportunities
- 9:45 am **SESSION 2**
What are the opportunities?
An employer's panel: Question and answers panel of key employers.
- 10:30 am Morning tea
- 10:50 am **SESSION 3**
Who and where are the displaced workers?
Question and answers panel consisting of key employment agencies -job network agencies and group training company representatives
- 11:30 pm **SESSION 4**
Skills and professional development
What are the opportunities to gain skills, formally recognise skills and issue national qualifications? Who can provide these services?
What funding is available and what is being done in schools to prepare young people for jobs?
- 12:10 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm **SESSION 5**
Hypothetical
A whole-of-forum interactive session to bring out issues and ideas so far....
- 2 pm **SESSION 6**
Partnerships, Opportunities and Priorities
An open forum discussion bringing together identified employment opportunities, strategic partnerships, skill training opportunities and targeted industry/sectors. The open forum will develop the action items and identify opportunities.
- 3 pm Afternoon tea
- 3:15 pm **SESSION 7**
Regional Action Planning
Conclusion and outcomes summary: A summary of emerging key partnerships, regional labour demand and items to be actioned. The way forward – who is going to help and what are we going to do?
- 4 pm Close



The agrifood industry and its numerous sectors face many challenges, from competitive markets, seasonal conditions, such as drought and flooding, pests and diseases. The emergence of the global economic crisis introduced a new and potentially damaging factor into the national economy.

Our research suggests that the agrifood industry may be in a position to offer jobs to people displaced by the downturn. Our national consultations for the Environmental Scan 2009 *Assuming the mantle* revealed broad optimism about the capacity of the industry to be able to continue trading profitably and to retain and grow its workforce. Many of our findings are contained in *Assuming the mantle*, copy available on request.

High on our agenda are moves to conduct regional and national jobs and skills summits in order to identify where jobs are available for people displaced from other industries.

Arthur Blewitt Chief Executive Officer

SECTORS

Food processing

beverages (including wine)
pharmaceuticals

Rural and related industries

rural production (agriculture)
amenity horticulture
conservation and land management
animal care and management

Meat

abattoirs
small goods
meat processing
meat retailing

Seafood

aquaculture
fishing operations
seafood processing
fishing compliance
fishing charter operations

Racing

thoroughbred
harness
greyhound

ABOUT US

AgriFood Skills Australia (formerly the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council) is an independent not-for-profit company with a fully industry representative Board. It is one of eleven Industry Skills Councils established by the Australian Government to actively support the development, implementation and continuous improvement of quality training and workforce products and services, including training packages.

AgriFood's role was given greater focus in 2007-08 with the release of the Australian Government's *Skilling Australia for the future* initiative. This new policy introduced a Productivity Places Program that provided funds for 711,000 new training places over five years.

WHAT WE DO

AgriFood is resourced principally by the Australian Government to:

- > use industry intelligence to advise business and government on workforce development and skill needs Australia-wide
- > actively support the development and implementation of quality skills training arrangements and related services
- > provide independent skills and training advice to businesses, including matching identified skills needs with appropriate training solutions
- > promote the benefits of skills development and training to industry enterprises, employers and employees.

In undertaking these roles AgriFood draws on widespread industry networks and active stakeholder engagement.

PHOTO: CEO Arthur Blewitt addresses the National Press Club at the launch of the Environmental Scan.