



Australian Government

Keep Australia Working

Keep Australia Working Forums

The Keep Australia Working Forums were announced by Senator the Hon Mark Arbib, Minister for Employment Participation, on 14 July 2009 in a Joint Media Release with The Hon Jason Clare MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Employment.

These Forums are being progressively held in 20 priority regions across Australia which have been identified as being hit particularly hard by the economic downturn because of their location, industry composition, demographic profile and economic performance.

The priority regions are:

- Canterbury-Bankstown and South Western Sydney (New South Wales)
- Illawarra (New South Wales)
- Richmond-Tweed and Clarence Valley (New South Wales)
- Mid-North Coast (New South Wales)
- Sydney West and Blue Mountains (New South Wales)
- Central Coast-Hunter (New South Wales)
- South Eastern Melbourne (Victoria)
- North Western Melbourne (Victoria)
- Ballarat-Bendigo (Central Victoria)
- North Eastern Victoria
- Ipswich-Logan (Queensland)
- Cairns (Queensland)
- Townsville-Thuringowa (Queensland)

- Caboolture-Sunshine Coast (Queensland)
- Southern Wide Bay-Burnett (Queensland)
- Bundaberg-Hervey Bay (Queensland)
- Northern and Western Adelaide (South Australia)
- Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie (South Australia)
- South West Perth (Western Australia) and
- North West/Northern Tasmania

The Keep Australia Working Forums will provide a unique opportunity for business leaders, local governments, employers, training and Job Services Australia providers within these regions to discuss ways of maximising opportunities for local businesses and workers and generate ideas that will facilitate opportunities to Keep Australia Working.

To date, Keep Australia Working Forums have been convened in Dandenong (South Eastern Melbourne), Devonport (North West/Northern Tasmania) and Liverpool (Canterbury-Bankstown and South Western Sydney), with Local Jobs Champions Lindsay Fox and Bill Kelty running workshops where participants identified their skill and labour needs and discussed how to harness the job opportunities created by the Government's infrastructure stimulus spending.

Keep Australia Working Forums will be held in all 20 priority regions.

For more information: phone 13 17 64 or email kaw@deewr.gov.au