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Media Release: Eyre Peninsula Housing Infrastructure Challenges and Options Paper Receives Commendation.

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The Eyre Peninsula Housing Infrastructure Challenges and Options Paper (Paper) commissioned by Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) and prepared by URPS has been recognised by the Planning Institute of Australia, receiving a commendation at the State Awards for Planning Excellence.

The Eyre Peninsula, like much of Australia, is combating a housing affordability and availability crisis driven by a lack of both quantity and quality in housing, with local government on Eyre Peninsula activity seeking to address this issue by bringing land and housing stock to the market.

“A key issue consistently being raised to RDAEP by developers is the cost-of-service infrastructure augmentation associated with development. In numerous cases, these costs pose a significant barrier to the advancement of new developments, rendering projects financially unfeasible. Accordingly, this was the focus area of the Paper” said RDAEP Chair Bryan Trigg.

Using regional case studies, including land divisions currently being pursued by the Lower Eyre Council at Cummins and District Council of Franklin Harbor at Cowell, the Paper provides decision-makers with a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the residential development sector on Eyre Peninsula. The Paper also explores existing infrastructure delivery tools as well as alternative options that can be considered to bring forward infrastructure works and boost investor confidence.

“The Paper is being used as a focal point to highlight areas of market failure; guide future investment in critical infrastructure and in advocating for greater funding support for regional housing projects by State and Federal Government - like those highlighted in the Paper and being pursued by other Eyre Peninsula Councils. It underscores the need for alternative funding methods and a collaborative approach to addressing these issues in the interest of fostering economic development” said RDAEP CEO Ryan Viney.

A proactive approach to stakeholder engagement was central to the preparation of the Paper. Active developers, various tiers of government, service providers and industry associations were all engaged through its development to provide critical insights. This approach enables the Paper to highlight some of the challenges affecting the development industry specific to the Eyre Peninsula, particularly regarding funding and infrastructure delivery.

“To have work undertaken by RDAEP acknowledged by the State’s peak planning body and planning profession at the Planning Institute of Australia State Awards for Planning Excellence is a fantastic outcome for the region. This recognition will provide additional context and weight to regional projects and will hopefully translate into more housing projects accessing State and Federal Government funding support to make them more financially viable and therefore bring new housing stock to the market to meet demand” said RDAEP CEO Ryan Viney.

Moving forward RDAEP will use the Paper to stimulate fresh ideas and informed discussions, aiming to foster positive change. This includes ongoing discussions with the State Government’s recently formed Office for Regional Housing.

Media Contact

Ryan Viney, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula

Phone: 0407 976 156

Report for background information [Housing – Infrastructure Challenges and Options Paper July 2024](#)

Photo available – contact reception@rdaep.org.au