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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA EYRE PENINSULA

Media Release: Sue Chase AM Appointed as Chair of Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula

7 March 2025

Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sue Chase AM as its new Chair, effective 1 April 2025. Her appointment was confirmed by the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and the Hon Clare Scriven MLC, State Minister for Primary Industries and Regions in conjunction with Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, President of the Local Government Association of South Australia.

Sue brings a wealth of experience in leadership, governance, and regional development, with a strong track record of driving economic growth and advocating for regional communities.

Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula is part of the national Regional Development Australia (RDA) network, supporting economic development, investment, and collaboration across the region. RDAEP plays a vital role in fostering economic growth, advocating for regional priorities, and driving initiatives that support the prosperity of the Eyre Peninsula.

Federal Minister for Regional Development, Kristy McBain MP said, "I congratulate new and returning RDA chairs, who will work closely with their community, local businesses and all levels of government to drive growth and development in their regions. With more than \$117 million from the Australian Government set to flow across all of the RDA committees over the next five years, it is an exciting time for the new and returning chairs, as they'll have the opportunity to work with their members to set the future agendas for their RDAs. We recognise the importance of local leaders supporting our work to Build Australia's Future, which is why I look forward to working with RDAs into the future."

Sue has been an integral member of the RDAEP Board since May 2020, serving on the Executive and Audit Committees. She is the recently retired owner and Managing Director of Cowell Electric Supply, a business she successfully grew from a small regional operation into a major industry player with over 100 employees and a \$30 million turnover. Her deep commitment to regional development is reflected in her extensive leadership roles, including Director positions at Mayfield Group Holdings Ltd, Energy & Water Ombudsman Board SA, and multiple advisory groups focused on regional infrastructure and economic growth.

Sue has extensive experience working with a broad range of stakeholders, from local businesses and industry leaders to government representatives and community groups. Her ability to foster strong relationships and drive collaborative initiatives has been a hallmark of her career. She is avid about ensuring regional voices are heard and that communities have the support and resources needed to thrive.

Outgoing Chair Bryan Trigg AFSM, who has served RDAEP with dedication since 2012 and as Chair since 2017, welcomed Sue's appointment. "I am personally very pleased that the Federal Government has approved Sue as the Board's new Chair. Sue's extensive experience and deep passion for Eyre Peninsula makes her an excellent choice to lead RDAEP into the future. Sue will be the third Chair we have had which has provided excellent stability for our region."

RDAEP CEO Ryan Viney also expressed his enthusiasm for Sue's appointment. "Sue brings exceptional leadership, business acumen, and a clear vision for our region. Her expertise in governance, stakeholder engagement, and economic development will be invaluable as we continue to drive opportunities for the Eyre Peninsula."

Ryan also acknowledged the contribution of outgoing Chair Bryan Trigg. "Bryan's leadership and dedication over the years have been instrumental in shaping RDAEP and the Eyre Peninsula's development. His deep understanding of the region, combined with his ability to build strong networks, has significantly supported regional growth and advocacy. We sincerely thank him for his strategic guidance and unwavering commitment to the Eyre Peninsula, and we acknowledge the invaluable service he has provided to the region."

Sue Chase said she was honoured to step into the role and build on the strong foundations laid by Bryan. "I am passionate about the Eyre Peninsula and the opportunities that exist for our communities, businesses, and industries. I look forward to working with the Board, staff, stakeholders, and all levels of government to continue fostering economic growth and innovation across the region. Strong collaboration is key to unlocking the Eyre Peninsula's full potential, and I am committed to ensuring our communities have a voice in shaping our future."

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