

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Our Ref: T15:0032

14 October 2016

Attention: News Editor

### **Ready welcome for SEGRA delegates**

More than 300 attendees will take on the big issues in regional development at the SEGRA 2016 conference in Albany at the end of October, in one of the biggest turn-outs in the event's 20-year history.

The Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) conference starts on Wednesday 26 October, leading off with a presentation from Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Chair Ross Thornton.

Mr Thornton said he looked forward to welcoming the conference delegates to the Great Southern and Albany.

"Delegates will arrive in Albany from all corners of Australia," Mr Thornton said.

"It is expected to be one of the biggest SEGRA conferences since they began in 1997.

"It will be my pleasure to welcome the delegates to the region and I will invite them to make the most of their visit by making time to take in some of our wonderful attractions and meet local people.

"During the conference, I anticipate a steady stream of informative, stimulating and perhaps challenging discussions about sustainable economic growth issues for regional areas.

"I expect that a conference of this size will be a benefit to the regional economy in its own right, but the substantial long-term gain is the knowledge and perspectives that can flow into policies and practical actions for regional growth," Mr Thornton said.

The GSDC, the City of Albany and Regional Development Australia-Great Southern are the host partners of the conference, as part of 17-strong partnership that includes government agencies, local governments, industry organisations and educational institutions.

Mr Thornton said the success of the partnership bid showed the strength of collaboration across the region.

SEGRA is a national conference that has established a reputation as a premier event on sustainable regional growth.



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SEGRA 2016 is the first to be hosted by a region and a city, Albany and the Great Southern, rather than a single city.

Speakers at the event include Idris Mootee, CEO of Idea Couture. Mr Mootee is an acclaimed strategic innovation expert.

Western Australian Chief Scientist Professor Peter Klinken and Winthrop Professor of Biodiversity Stephen Hopper AC are on the list of keynote speakers, along with Enterprise Learning Projects CEO Laura Egan, Deloitte Access Economics Associate Director Kristian Kolding and Thumper One Chairman Anthony Bertini.

Details of the conference, including the program and registrations, are available at [2016.segra.com.au](http://2016.segra.com.au).

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