

NORTHERN RIVERS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Announcing the appointment of Dr Susan Vinnicombe to Chair, RDA Northern Rivers

RDA Northern Rivers is pleased to welcome Dr Susan Vinnicombe as the new Chair of the RDA Northern Rivers Board.

Dr Vinnicombe has been a valued member of the RDA Northern Rivers Board since 2015 and has held the position of Deputy Chair since 2019.

Dr Vinnicombe has always been a strong advocate for our region and will continue to drive economic sustainability as Chair of RDA Northern Rivers.

Athony Schreenan, RDA Northern Rivers Director of Regional Development, welcomes the appointment of Dr Vinnicombe.

"RDA Northern Rivers is delighted to welcome Dr. Susan Vinnicombe as our new Chair. Her dedication to regional development and strong leadership will help shape a prosperous future for our communities" he said.

"With her impressive background and commitment to regional growth, Dr. Susan Vinnicombe is the perfect choice to lead RDA Northern Rivers.

"We look forward to working together to advance regional priorities and build a thriving future for Northern Rivers."

Congratulations on this well-deserved appointment!"

On receiving the appointment Dr Vinnicombe said,

"As a long term member of the RDA Northern Rivers Board, I am excited to be taking up the position of Chair.

"I have advocated for the region as a Board member and Deputy Chair of the RDA Northern Rivers Board and am honoured to have been given the opportunity to continue to work for the advancement of our region.

“I am passionate about our region and look forward to advancing our economic profile and sustainability, as well as representing our region in both Federal and State forums.”

The appointment was confirmed by the Federal Minister for Regional Development, Kristy McBain MP who 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.”

The RDA Northern Rivers Board and staff thank retiring Chair, The Hon Donald Page, who has served our Board and community since 2016, for his service. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

About Dr Vinnicombe:

Dr Susan Vinnicombe is a specialist in the area of agritourism and entrepreneurship. With many years experience as an accountant, business advisor and university lecturer, Dr Vinnicombe has advised and mentored many local businesses from the new venture phase through to growth and succession planning.

Her doctoral research, undertaken in the Northern Rivers region of NSW, focused on entrepreneurs in agriculture and agritourism. In particular, looking at the potential for diversification of income streams to assist with succession planning.

In recent times she has been working on projects within the organic food industry assisting farmers to convert to organic farming practices and gain organic certification. Formerly a lecturer in MBA programs, she has taught both around Australia and extensively throughout South East Asia.

In addition, Dr Vinnicombe owns and manages several businesses in the region with a focus on small business development, property and agriculture. Working with the RDA NR Board, Dr Vinnicombe is keen to identify opportunities for regional development, agricultural diversification and economic activity in the Northern Rivers.

Media contact: Anthony Shreenan, RDA Northern Rivers Director of Regional Development
P: 0407 724 110 E: director@rdanorthernrivers.org.au

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