



Regional Regeneration Alliance

CASE STUDY: SHIRE OF DALWALLINU

Repopulation project restoring hope in regional towns

A fresh approach in the Shire of Dalwallinu that led to a 15 per cent population increase (in stark contrast to many of its neighbours) has sparked hope in regional communities.

Like many towns in regional Western Australia, Dalwallinu was experiencing a steady fall in population, leaving empty seats in schools, sporting clubs struggling for members, as well as labour shortages in local businesses.

Rather than accept the inevitable decline, one passionate community member set to work on a concept plan in 2010 to capitalise on the region's strategic advantages, to address the growing labour shortage and provide affordable housing.

The Regional Repopulation Project (a precursor to the Regional Regeneration Alliance) coordinated efforts by local and state government to fill vacancies in local businesses with skilled migrants through the federal government's 457 visa program.

A suite of programs and initiatives were developed to support new residents and their employers to ensure the successful long-term integration into the community.

Locals say the Shire of Dalwallinu has become an increasingly attractive place to live, with more teachers for the school and sporting teams rejuvenated.

The Regional Repopulation Project resulted in substantial population growth in the Shire of Dalwallinu and more than 100 new Australian citizenships.

Almost a decade later, the project sparked the formation of the Regional Regeneration Alliance to restore hope in regional communities with a truly collaborative approach.

The Alliance shares information and resources to enable and empower people to building long-term sustainable communities through diversified, value-adding enterprises.



Growing community

The Shire of Dalwallinu's population has increased by 15 per cent over a decade.



New citizens

More than 100 new residents supported through the process to become Australian citizens.



Multicultural award

The Shire of Dalwallinu was awarded the Implementing Multicultural Locally Award in 2013.

Sources:

Regional Repopulation Plan, 2010. Regional Repopulation Pilot Project Report, 2014. Shire of Dalwallinu.

More information:

E: info@regenalliance.org.au

W: www.regenalliance.org.au

T: 0408 234 838