

A wide-angle photograph of the Uluru rock formation in Australia. The large, rounded red sandstone boulders are set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a winding river flows through a lush green landscape with various shrubs and trees. The water reflects the surrounding greenery and the red rock.

# Themes: SEGRA 2014

8-10. October 2014  
Alice Springs NT



**SEGRA**  
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH  
FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

# Its people

- Human capital development (*especially remote communities*)
- Retention as well as attraction
- Engagement, deliberation and participation
- Adapting to our own (*policy, economic and social*) 'climate' change
- Linking aspirations of communities to strategies

# Community

- Connecting matters
  - *Collaboration across jurisdictions*
  - *Regions working together*
  - *Digital inclusion*
- Building and maintaining social capital
- Local people decide on futures
- The ‘wave’ energy in communities
- Creating good habitats

# Industry

- The fantastic five +
- The potential for tech start-ups
- But mining remains important
  - *Post-boom regional development*
- Agriculture
  - *A deli not a food bowl (higher value products?)*
  - *The challenge of the competitive edge*
- Non-carbon-based energy
- Trade-offs and conflicts between industries

# Business and investment

- Indigenous communities and people participating in the real economy
- Enabling entrepreneurs
- Coming to grips with international investment
- Encouraging development of digital strategies
- Tourism
  - *service hubs (but not the silver bullet)*
  - *Harnessing niche tourism for local outcomes*

# Institutions

- The importance of good governance
- Making macro policy meet micro differences
- The roles of the RDAs
  - *Diverse but capable of coordination and initiation*
- Policy recycling and dependency
- The potential for deliberative participation
- Political decision-makers listening to us our ideas
- But don't forget the infrastructure (*that matches community needs and wishes*)