

8:25 - 8:55

Registration opens

8:55 - 9:00

Welcome- House keeping

MC - Craig Spencer

Head of Volunteering Engagement
St John WA

9:00 - 9:05

Welcome to country

George Hayden

9:05 - 9:20

Keynote

Rob Kerin

Director Regional Australia Institute
to introduce

Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC

9:20 - 9:30

Audience Q&A

9:30 - 9:50

Keynote

Liz Ritchie

CEO
Regional Australia Institute

9:50 - 10:00

Audience Q&A

Morning Tea

REGIONS RISING WA PROGRAM

Tuesday | 8:25am - 4:15pm (AWST) | 30 June 2026

10:30 - 11:20

PANEL 1: Regionalisation

Facilitator - Liz Ritchie

CEO
Regional Australia Institute

Cassy Beeck

Inaugural Director - Strategic Direction
GNP360

Robyn Sermon

CEO Royal Agricultural Society WA and
Chair Regional Development Council WA

Will Golsby

CEO
Chamber of Commerce WA

Professor Alan Duncan

Executive Director
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

Professor Cobie Rudd

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Regional Futures)
Edith Cowan University

11:20 - 11:40

Audience Q&A

11:40 - 12:15

In Conversation

Facilitator - Craig Spencer

Head of Volunteering Engagement
St John WA

Marnie Baker

Director
Regional Australia Institute

Jon Haines

Chief Operating Officer
Western Australia Institute of Sport

Ben Wilson

Growth and Impact Lead WA
The Hospital Research Foundation Group

12:15 - 12:25

Audience Q&A

12:25 - 12:45

Keynote Address

Craig Spencer

Head of Volunteering Engagement
St John WA
to introduce

Naomi Evans

Head of NBN Local WA/SA/NT
NBN Australia

12:45 - 12:55

Audience Q&A

Lunch

1:40 - 2:30

PANEL 2: Regional Economic Diversification and Workplace Development

Facilitator - Paul Isaachsen

Deputy Director General
Department of Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Cr Daiva Gillam

CEO
RDA Pilbara

Michael McGowan

Executive Director
Housing Industry Australia

Damian Shepherd

Executive Director
Creative Industries

Shannon O'Rourke

CEO
Powering Australia

Jeremy Maitland-Smith

Board Member
Reconciliation WA

2:30 - 2:45

Audience Q&A

Afternoon Tea

3:10 - 3:55

PANEL 3: Resources, energy and infrastructure

Facilitator - Nils Hay

CEO
Mid West Development Commission

Warren Pearce

CEO
Association of Mining and Exploration
Company

Stephanie Unwin

CEO
ARC Infrastructure

Tim Bray

Deputy Director General
Department of Energy and Economic
Development

David Frankel

General Manager
Horizon Power

3:55 - 4:10

Audience Q&A

4:10 - 4:15

Closing

Liz Ritchie

CEO
Regional Australia Institute

4:15

Event close

Speaker Bios

