

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Regional
Development
South Australia

Regional Blueprint 2026

Edition 6

October 2026

Local people developing local solutions regionaldevelopmentsa.com.au

Photo Credit: Josh Geelen



Acknowledgement of Country

Regional Development
South Australia would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the South Australian lands on which we work and pay our respects to the elders past and present.



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Executive Chair Summary

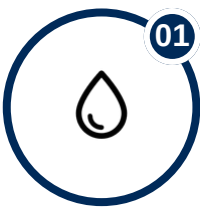


This sixth Regional Blueprint comes at an important moment for regional South Australia — a time of momentum, complexity and shared responsibility. Across our regions, communities are working to strengthen local economies, manage growth sustainably and respond to changing pressures. RDSA’s role is to help bring that regional intelligence together, support constructive partnerships and promote the conditions that enable long-term sustainability and growth.

Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) unites the eight Regional Development Australia organisations across South Australia, providing a coordinated, evidence-driven voice for our regions. Funded by all three levels of government, our network acts as regional intelligence brokers, cross-sector conveners, and facilitators of private investment — helping government understand emerging pressures, align planning with housing, industry, and economic development priorities, and support the readiness and delivery of the pipeline of economic investment projects across SA’s regions. The scale of the opportunity, and the scale of the task, is set out in the pages that follow.

Regional Development South Australia Strategic Priorities 2026-2028

In July 2025, RDSA released its Regional Priorities Statement: Strong Regions, Smart Growth (<https://www.regionaldevelopmentsa.com.au/resources/regional-priorities-statement-2025>). Building on that Statement, Strong Regions, Smart Growth, RDSA has identified three strategic priorities to guide its advocacy and engagement over the next two years: water, infrastructure, and business capacity and economic diversification.



PRIORITY ONE

Water

Regional South Australia’s water challenge is as much about information and voice as it is about supply. We are working to secure a formal, coordinated regional voice in water planning and investment — improved two-way data sharing, and financing models that reflect the long-term economic return of regional water investment.



PRIORITY TWO

Infrastructure

Infrastructure investment decisions guided by more than population alone. We are building the evidence base for two related arguments: that outer regional infrastructure investment should follow economic contribution and forecast growth, and that in fast-growing peri-urban areas, enabling infrastructure must be sequenced ahead of new housing.



PRIORITY THREE

Business Capacity and Economic Diversification

As this Blueprint reinforces, our regions host a substantial and growing pipeline of major projects. Capturing that opportunity for local businesses and communities takes deliberate strategy. By synthesising the RDA network’s regional economic intelligence into a clearer statewide picture, we can help inform planning and decision-making by government and industry.

Each priority addresses a challenge that spans multiple government portfolios and cannot be resolved by the RDA network alone — progress depends on a genuinely collaborative relationship between RDSA and all three levels of government.

The RDA network in SA values its role as a trusted partner to state, federal and local government and as an enabler of intergovernmental collaboration. We are independent and bipartisan. We are embedded in our communities, with relationships and intelligence built over decades. We are funded to 2030, giving us the stability to think and act for the long term. And we are increasingly aligned — with shared priorities across the network and a growing capacity to speak with one coordinated voice.

As independent Executive Chair of RDSA, alongside the eight RDA Chairs, I recognise the significant, ongoing investment that all three levels of government continue to make in the regions, and the value of our partnerships with the Australian and South Australian Governments and local government across the state. I also thank the RDA staff and board members, who bring their skills, time, and commitment to better their communities, and for their continued dedication to regional South Australia.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing commitment and passion of these supporters. We look forward to another year focused on the long-term sustainability and economic transformation of regional South Australia.

Hon Rob Kerin AO

Executive Chair, Regional Development South Australia



Photo Credit: Josh Geelen

Ministerial Foreword



The South Australian Government welcomes Regional Development South Australia's Regional Blueprint 2026 as an important and evidence-based contribution to our understanding of the regions which underpin the prosperity and future of our state.

South Australia's regions are a cornerstone of the state's economy, environment and way of life, supporting thriving industries, vibrant communities and the stewardship of significant natural assets. Their continued success depends on the capacity of regional communities, industry and government to respond to changing economic, environmental and social conditions while capitalising on emerging opportunities.

Regional South Australia is home to more than 569,000 people, over 48,000 businesses and almost 229,000 jobs, representing 30 percent of the state's businesses and 24 percent of its employment. With a regional investment pipeline of \$115.6 billion, our regions continue to attract strong industry and investor confidence, even in the face of ongoing challenges such as drought, biosecurity threats and geopolitical and market disruptions.

These challenges also underline the importance of strong regional partnerships. Through its statewide network and regional presence, RDSA brings together evidence, local knowledge and practical perspectives that help governments, industry and communities better understand regional opportunities and priorities.

The South Australian Government values RDSA and the broader RDA network as constructive partners, playing a key role in facilitating informed dialogue on the issues shaping the future of regional South Australia. In a time of global volatility and rapid change, these partnerships across multiple levels of government, industry and communities are crucial to ensuring regional industries remain internationally competitive and well positioned to adapt to a changing operating environment.

This Blueprint provides a timely overview of the opportunities and challenges ahead, and I welcome the contribution it will make to ongoing efforts to strengthen regional economies, enhance community liveability and build statewide resilience.

Hon. Clare Scriven MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Economic Foreword



South Australia, for the most part, has bucked the trend of economic weakness in the FY ending June 2026 period, growing at 2.3% versus 2.1% growth for Australia overall. However, growth in the Regions fell slightly in that time period, by 0.6%. This decline masks great variation in individual results. For example, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and KI grew by over 30% while Eyre Peninsula fell 22%. Going forward, conditions are expected to remain challenging for the Regions. Indeed, South Australia's more recent quarterly results show growth to be flat in the State.

Current Economic Conditions

The slowdown in growth can be attributed to many factors, both domestic and overseas. The war in the Middle East, with no clear end in sight, has seen crude oil prices experiencing a volatility not seen since early COVID days. Inflation in the United States is now back on the agenda, with the Federal Reserve Chairman stating there is 'work to do.' Continuing trade tensions, and outright declarations of 'war', are putting pressure on international value chains with the only likely winner being China. Trade accounts for almost half of Australia's GDP, thus disruptions in international markets have a direct impact on economic growth at home. Indeed, Regional South Australia's main industries have a heavy export focus, making it an interesting time of growing uncertainty, but also one of opportunity.

Global bond market volatility is also playing out in Australia. The increases in oil prices have contributed to bond market declines, causing borrowing costs to hit multi-decade highs. This impacts governments' ability to service their current debt as well as take on further borrowing at a time when government debts are at record levels. The potential lack of manoeuvrability by the SA government has implications for regions given the amounts already invested in drought relief, the Whyalla steelworks and the smelter at Port Pirie.

While in the past, the stronger-than-expected economic growth of 2.1% would be cause for celebration, in the current economic environment where demand already exceeds supply, this just means further pressure on prices. Without improvements in productivity (where we can increase supply without putting overt pressure on prices), such growth implies more inflation.

Together, these factors put increasing pressure on the RBA to increase interest rates. Further rate hikes will impact those – both households and businesses – with mortgages and other financial debt, hampering the SA economy's ability to grow. Despite these headwinds, projections for growth in the state remain positive, albeit somewhat slower than what is expected for Australia overall. Over the next two years, State growth is expected to be between 1.5 and 2% while unemployment is expected to stay at a relatively low rate of 4.5%.

While both business conditions and confidence have declined in SA, the State continues to experience some of the lowest unemployment numbers in the country. Household spending has also remained resilient. Recent data shows a 0.7% increase, with spending on recreation and culture being almost twice as high as other states and territories.

Job growth has been robust in Regional SA, coming in at twice the rate of the State overall. More than half the regions have experienced positive job growth.

Investment spending in the Regions is also strong, with the value of investment projects increasing over 18% through fiscal year 2026 and almost 10% net increase in the number of projects.

Going Forward

Key to sustained growth in the regions is diversity and productivity gains, each acting as a positive reinforcement of the other. While the traditional pillars of Regional economic growth tend to be commodities (agriculture, fishing, minerals), other sectors are gaining in importance. Construction, Accommodation and Food Service and Administration now add significantly to the State's overall output. While services exports, dominated by education services, have softened, copper and meat have seen strong increases in the past year. These growth sectors have provided solid performance for their regions.

Also pivotal to Regional performance is the continued need for labour. While population has increased for Regions overall, this growth has been uneven. For example, in the past year population in Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and KI increased over 20% while all other regions were closer to 1%, some even experienced population declines. For the Regions to achieve sustainable growth and expanded living standards, a skilled workforce is essential.

Labour shortages remain high in South Australia, with the care sector, including early childhood education and hospitals, particularly affected. Over 350 occupations have been identified as in shortage in the State, up from 149 in 2021. Construction and Health Care are particularly affected, with both being major employers in the Regions (as high as 15% and 20% of employment, respectively).

Trying to ensure diversity and continued manufacturing capacity and employment, the government unveiled a \$2.4bn Whyalla rescue package, of which \$1.9bn would be used to “work with a new owner to invest in the upgrades and new infrastructure” to ensure the steelworks had a sustainable, long-term future. Likewise, Port Pirie has been given \$240m for upgrades and another \$105m for a feasibility study to understand what is involved in maintaining this manufacturing capacity in State. While the debate about the viability of these investments continues, it is clear the regions remain ripe for major investment leading to economic diversification for the State.

Summary

Regional South Australia has had solid performance in its existing sectors, adding significantly to the State's growth and income. However, like Australia as a whole, Regional SA faces challenges in attracting and keeping skilled workers and new, innovative business ventures. The Regions need to be seen as an integral part of diversity and growth for the State, whose workforce, resources and ingenuity, act as critical assets supporting future growth in living standards.

Dr Susan Stone

Credit Union SA Chair of Economics, Adelaide University

Aggregated Data – Regional SA

REGIONAL INVESTMENT PIPELINE

\$115.6B

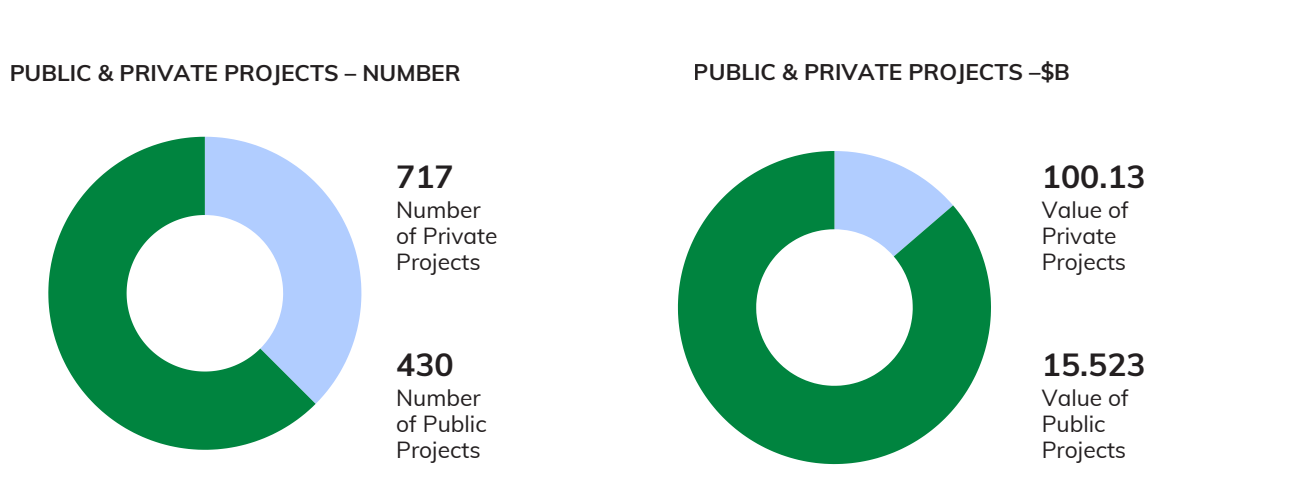
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To be included in the Regional Investment Pipeline, projects must be under active contemplation, funding consideration and/or construction for commencement in the next five years.

Regional South Australia’s Economic Performance

REGIONAL POPULATION 569,694 ▲ 33,181	GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT \$37.99B ▼ 0.24
NUMBER OF BUSINESSES 48,107 ▲ 395	NUMBER OF JOBS 228,999 ▲ 9,434

Public and Private Projects



MOVEMENT IN				
REGIONAL INVESTMENT	2025	2026	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Number of Total Projects	1,043	1,147	104	9.97
Total Pipeline Value \$B	97.75	115.65	17.9	18.32

Regional Projects by Industry

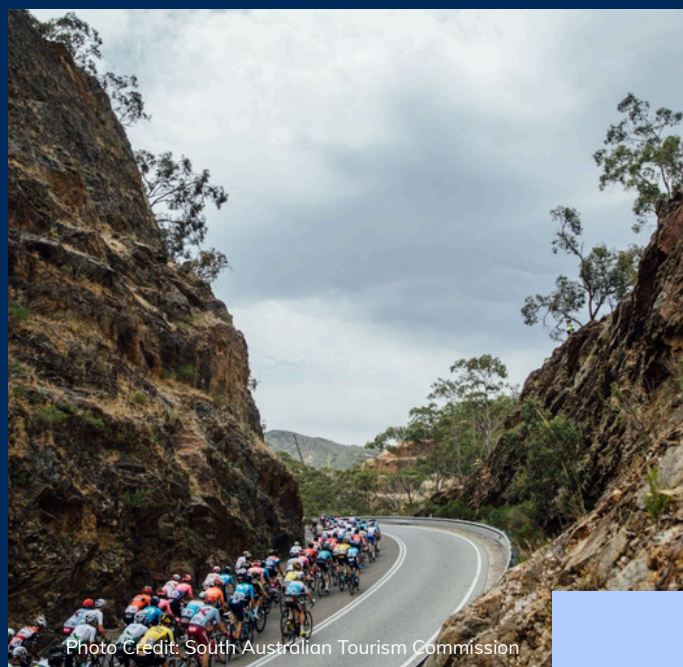
ANZSIC CODE	PROJECTS	VALUE
A Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	39	\$401,055,722
B Mining	18	\$5,646,000,000
C Manufacturing	100	\$11,259,633,450
D Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	126	\$69,031,101,599
E Construction	309	\$14,610,936,989
F Wholesale Trade	4	\$47,212,420
G Retail Trade	29	\$272,060,000
H Accommodation and Food Services	134	\$1,326,850,333
I Transport, Postal, Warehousing and Storage	61	\$915,191,130
J Information, Media and Telecommunications	11	\$3,062,463,000
K Finance and Insurance Services	0	\$0
L Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	3	\$11,500,000
M Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	19	\$5,142,936,496
N Administrative and Support Services	1	\$40,000
O Public Administration and Safety	26	\$287,083,768
P Education and Training	33	\$344,849,550
Q Health Care and Social Assistance	61	\$1,006,493,118
R Arts and Recreational Services	115	\$786,659,679
S Other Services	7	\$8,200,000
Z Not Specified	51	\$1,497,873,250
TOTAL	1,147	\$115,658,140,504



Photo Credit: Josh Geelen

ADELAIDE HILLS FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND

A region built for growth. From Adelaide's doorstep to Kangaroo Island, our diverse economy brings together productive agriculture, manufacturing, world-class food, wine and tourism, fast-growing communities and outstanding natural assets - creating opportunity for businesses, investors and South Australia.



The Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (AHFKI) is a diverse and growing \$9.133 billion economy, generating \$18.3 billion in annual output and supporting 58,140 local jobs. Manufacturing makes the greatest contribution to economic output, while Health Care and Social Assistance is the region's largest employer.

The region's economic strength comes from its diversity, with Construction, Manufacturing and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing playing particularly important roles as propulsive industries - the sectors which are the key drivers of this region's economy in terms of regional exports, employment, value-added and local expenditure on goods and services (backward linkages).

Proximity to Adelaide, strong population growth, productive agricultural land, established manufacturing, premium food and wine, globally recognised tourism, and natural assets provide a powerful platform for future growth. Realising that potential will require continued investment in enabling infrastructure, housing, workforce skills and business growth, helping our industries expand, creating more local jobs and strengthening the region's contribution to South Australia's economy.

Regional Priorities

1

Investment Attraction

Investment grows when we attract, retain, and expand businesses, driven by a strong regional narrative, targeted promotion, strategic public funding, and investor readiness. We will strengthen the region's investment position to build a unified regional narrative, support grant readiness, connect opportunities, and help package investment cases that align with government priorities.

2

Connecting Our Region

The region's economic development ecosystem is mature, resilient and productive because stakeholders are connected, informed and collaborate in a high-trust environment. We will bring stakeholders together to encourage collaboration, improve awareness of available resources, and support or directly advocate on behalf of the region to state and federal governments.

3

Advancing Public Infrastructure

The region's productivity and liveability are supported with appropriate and timely development of public infrastructure. We will help build a shared regional view of infrastructure constraints and needs, advocating for timely investment that supports growth and liveability. This is about strengthening the regional case and improving coordination.

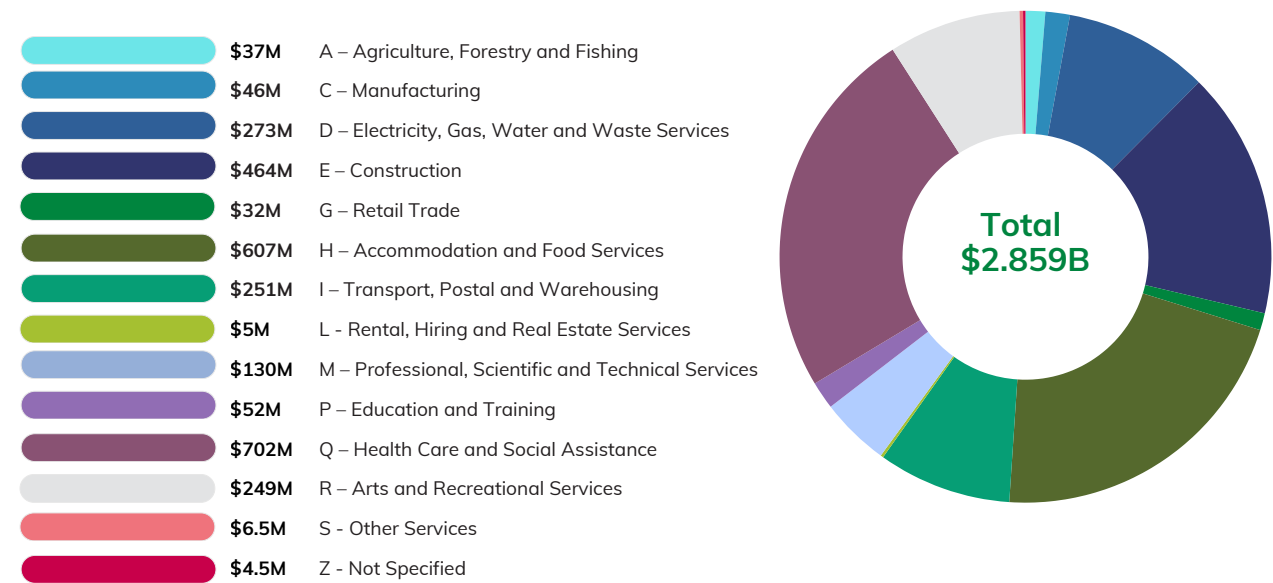
4 Trusted Delivery Partner
Government and other stakeholder programs are secured for the region and successfully delivered. We will attract programs into the region and be the go-to partner to support and/or deliver programs aligned with our vision and strategy.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	145,351	175,919	30,568	21.03%
Number of Businesses	12,608	12,826	218	1.73%
GRP (\$B)	7.005	9.133	2.128	30.38%
Total Number of Jobs	48,757	58,140	9,383	19.24%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	2.550	2.859	0.309	12.13%
Tracked investment projects	155	148	-7	-4.52%

NOTE: This 2026 data includes the McLaren Vale Preservation District to provide a full snapshot of the AHFKI region.

Regional Investment



BAROSSA GAWLER LIGHT ADELAIDE PLAINS

A strong, diverse economy is supporting continued growth across the region, with population, business numbers, GRP and the regional investment pipeline all growing. This momentum is creating new opportunities and increasing demand for infrastructure, housing, services and workforce.



Photo Credit: South Australian Tourism Commission

The Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains economy generates \$4.415 billion in GRP annually, underpinned by manufacturing, agriculture, construction, and health care and social assistance. Productive agricultural land supports grain production, livestock, horticulture and viticulture, while the region's internationally recognised wine and tourism industries remain significant economic and cultural strengths. Proximity to Adelaide and major road and rail corridors provides further advantages for logistics, manufacturing and investment.

Population and housing growth is expected to accelerate over the coming decades, with the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan identifying major greenfield growth areas at Concordia, Kudla, Roseworthy and Two Wells. This growth presents significant economic opportunities while increasing demand for enabling infrastructure, services, housing and workforce.

The regional investment pipeline reflects this transformation, with significant activity across mining, manufacturing, utilities and construction, alongside opportunities in horticulture, logistics and warehousing, tourism accommodation, transport infrastructure, town centre revitalisation, health and education.

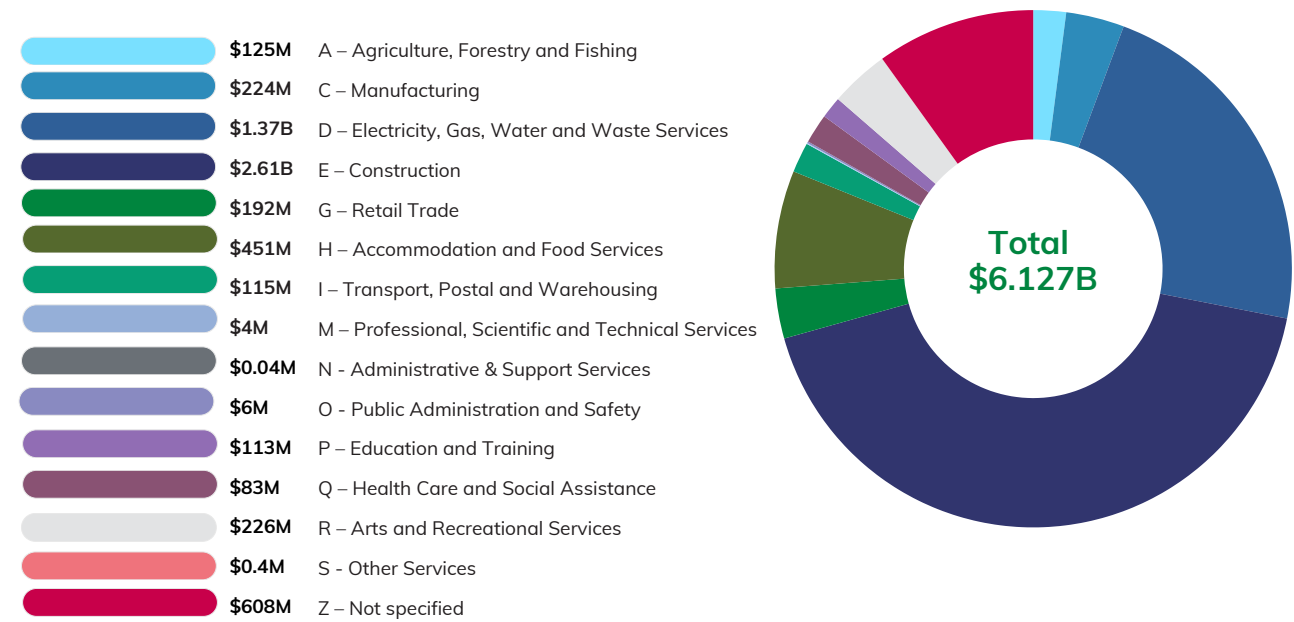
Regional Priorities

- 1 Water Security & Climate**
Enabling climate-resilient, integrated water systems that support population, housing and employment growth envisaged for the region, while sustaining business productivity, agricultural capacity and community liveability.
- 2 Business & Community**
Ensuring that current and future generations can live and work locally, by strengthening our business and priority sectors, supporting regional economic development, skilling our workforce and housing our community in liveable, fit-for-purpose homes and areas.
- 3 Infrastructure**
Enabling regional growth and productivity through coordinated, timely and fit-for-purpose civic, social and digital infrastructure and Employment Lands that support businesses, communities, investment and long-term development.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	82,102	83,434	1,332	1.62%
Number of Businesses	6,229	6,304	75	1.20%
GRP (\$B)	3.960	4.415	0.455	11.49%
Total Number of Jobs	29,790	31,099	1,309	4.39%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	4.430	6.127	1.697	38.30%
Tracked investment projects	178	314	136	76.40%

Regional Investment



EYRE PENINSULA

Driven by world renowned agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, mining, steel manufacturing and tourism, Eyre Peninsula exports 90% of grain and 80% of seafood. The strategic importance is growing as a hub for green economy, underpinned by wind, solar and critical minerals.

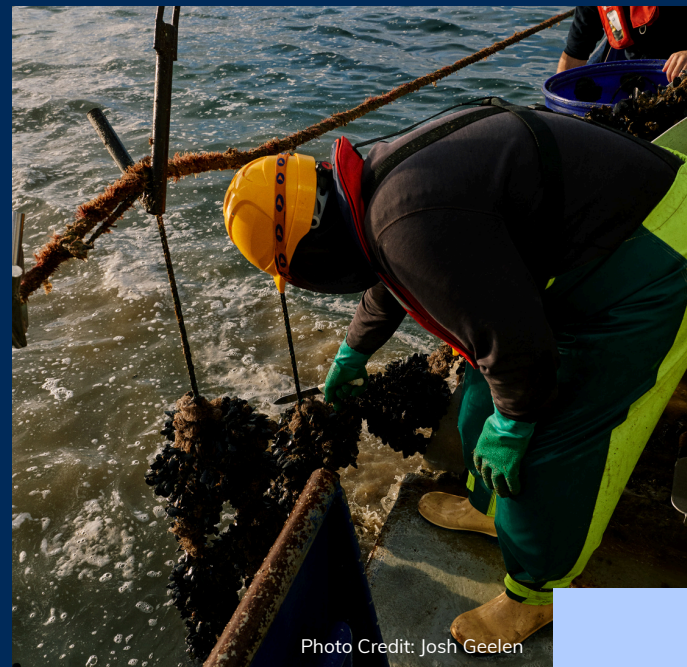


Photo Credit: Josh Geelen

The Eyre Peninsula is an economically vital and geographically diverse region, contributing \$4.02 billion in Gross Regional Product (2026).

Significant opportunities exist for businesses in primary production and value-added processing, particularly in food and seafood production. Enhanced digital connectivity could also open pathways for tech-based or remote business models.

The region's future is underpinned by a project pipeline valued at over \$20.96 billion, with the potential to create more than 25,000 new jobs. This unprecedented scale of investment reflects a highly collaborative business environment, focused on leveraging the region's unique natural advantages to diversify and future-proof the economy.

The Eyre Peninsula Strategic Regional Plan 2030 provides a unified vision and region-wide strategies for sustainable economic development. The four pillars of the Plan are Social Capacity, Infrastructure Capability, Economic Prosperity and Environmental Sustainability, and it identifies 18 priority areas and associated strategies.

Regional Priorities

1 Economic Prosperity

Economic growth through improved business efficiencies and industry diversification. The region's future prosperity relies on its ability to diversify, grow and refine its economy and processes, guided by regenerative economic principles which focus on restoration and building capacity.

2 Social Capacity

Workforce attraction, retention, training and support. The people of the Eyre Peninsula are resilient and have a strong sense of identity. However, they need to be supported by a variety of services to grow and thrive. Retaining and attracting a strong population base and active workforce is a key goal and vital to supporting economic growth and strong communities.

3 Infrastructure Capability

Provision of economic enabling infrastructure, including roads and ports, to support greater market access. Adequate infrastructure is vital to ensuring that businesses remain competitive and able to grow. The challenge of distance, access to markets, and general connectivity remains an issue for the Eyre Peninsula. For this reason, it is critical that the region not only seeks to enhance its networks but also maintain existing infrastructure and services.

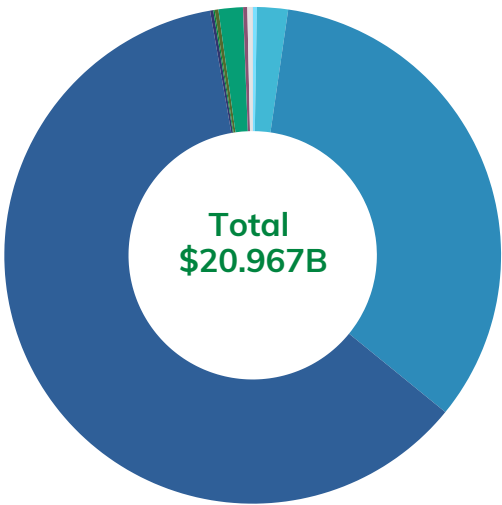
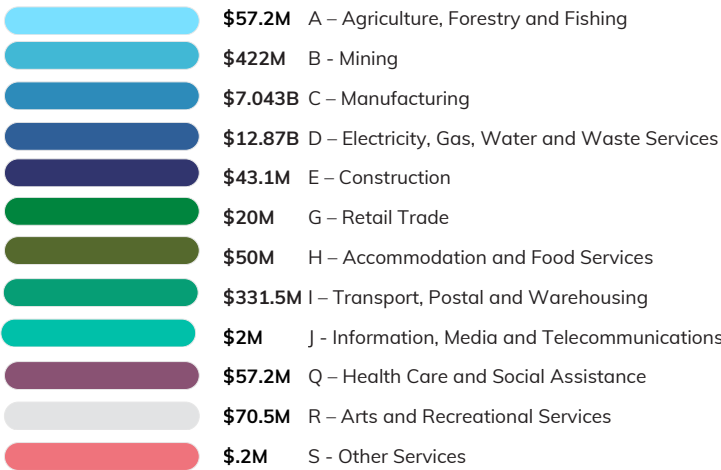
4 Environmental Sustainability
Ecologically sustainable development and natural resource management. The Eyre Peninsula’s economy relies upon its environment. From resource extraction to agriculture, aquaculture and nature-based tourism, impacts associated with climate change will negatively affect the productivity of the region’s existing and established industries. The region wants to protect these assets for future generations by ensuring long term management and mitigation practices are at the forefront of decision-making processes.

5 Collaboration and Coordination
Provision of leadership through regional collaboration and cooperation. The region is seeking out opportunities to work collectively with all levels of government, key regional stakeholders, landowners, and industry to sustainably manage the Eyre Peninsula and grow the regional economy for the benefit of our community.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	59,406	59,339	-67	-0.11%
Number of Businesses	5,180	5,203	23	0.44%
GRP (\$B)	5.161	4.020	-1.141	-22.11%
Total Number of Jobs	26,796	24,866	-1,930	-7.20%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	25.600	20.967	-4.633	-18.10%
Tracked investment projects	157	70	-87	-55.41%

Regional Investment



FAR NORTH

The Far North is experiencing strong economic momentum, driven by a \$51.36 billion investment pipeline, major resources activity and improved seasonal conditions, creating opportunities for continued growth across mining, pastoral industries, tourism and our regional communities.

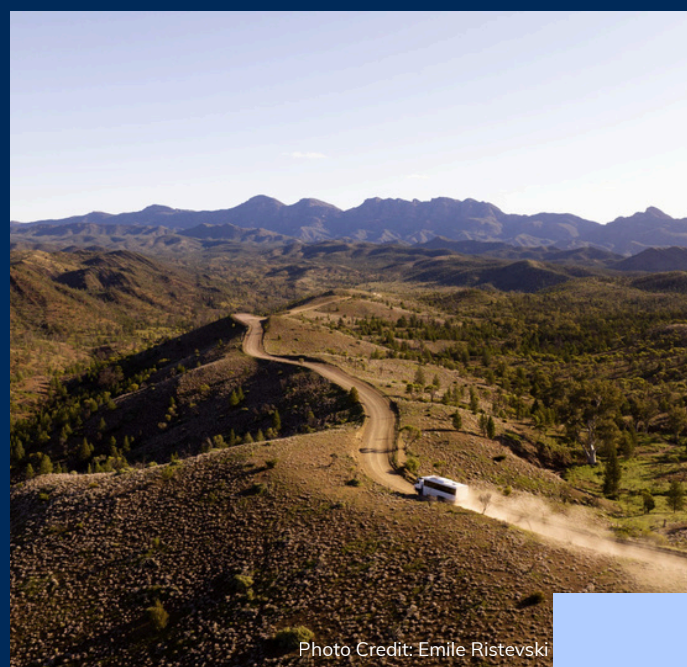


Photo Credit: Emile Ristevski

The Far North's investment pipeline continues to grow strongly, rising from \$42.47 billion to \$51.36 billion over the past year—a 20.9% increase—driven by ongoing mining investment and project activity across the region. Mining remains a major economic driver, underpinned by BHP's Copper South Australia operations and continued investment across the region.

The Far North's significant copper and other mineral resources continue to attract investment interest, while enabling infrastructure, including water, energy, transport, housing and community infrastructure remains critical to supporting future development.

Significant rainfall across the Far North during 2026, including record rainfall in parts of the pastoral districts, has substantially improved seasonal conditions, providing a positive outlook for pastoral activity and supporting the region's nature bases and outback tourism offering.

Together, the strong investment pipeline, resources activity and improved seasonal conditions provide a positive economic outlook for the region.

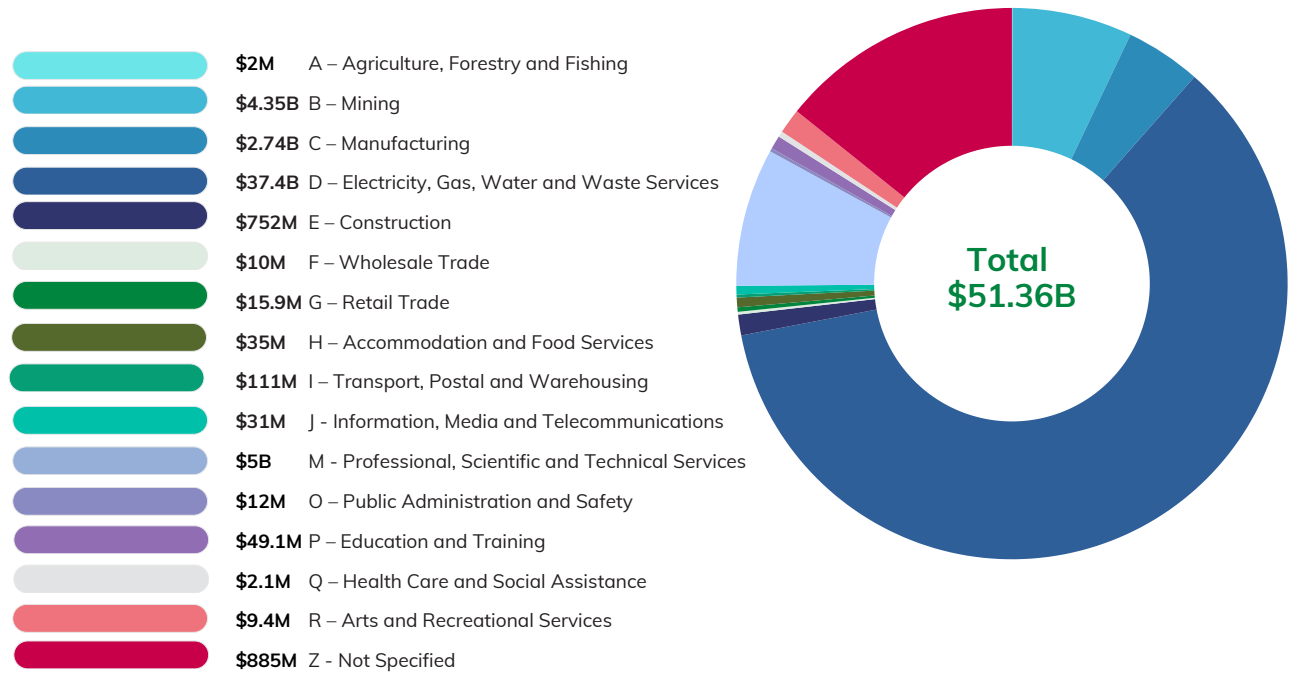
Regional Priorities

- 1 Economic Development**
Advancing the major growth sectors in the Far North Investment Pipeline through working with key industry sectors and businesses to assist them to reach their potential.
- 2 Strategic Infrastructure Investment**
Identifying strategic infrastructure requiring investment with a focus on connectivity across the Far North, further opening the region to industry, tourism and business.
- 3 Business Capacity Building**
Support private investment by local and regional businesses, and attraction of new industries and businesses addressing the visitor economy through the promotion of the region.
- 4 Population**
Support projects and initiatives which improve the liveability of the Far North region.
- 5 Collaboration**
Support collaboration with other key stakeholders, including RDAs across SA and Australia to share ideas and grow local knowledge.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	26,540	26,471	-69	-0.26%
Number of Businesses	1,422	1,391	-31	-2.18%
GRP (\$B)	6.580	6.344	-0.236	-3.59%
Total Number of Jobs	18,705	19,916	1,211	6.47%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	42.470	51.36	8.885	20.92%
Tracked investment projects	98	135	37	37.76%

Regional Investment



LIMESTONE COAST

Limestone Coast – a place of natural beauty, thriving communities and diverse economy. As the service hub for the South East of South Australia and Western Victoria, the region is also known for primary production, value added manufacturing, and tourism, linking Adelaide and Melbourne.



Photo Credit: Josh Geelen

The Limestone Coast's diverse economy's GRP is estimated at \$4.69 billion. Our largest industry sector by employment is Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, followed by Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance. Given the importance of primary production to the region, building drought resilience is a focus, along with work to support businesses in the face of biosecurity impacts.

Infrastructure to support productivity and liveability remains critical, and businesses may be impacted by the effects of the international environment, driving the cost of doing business up (such as fuel costs and availability).

Tourism remains one of the Limestone Coast's strongest success stories, supporting local businesses, creating jobs and showcasing the experiences that make our region unique. From natural attractions and food and wine to cultural heritage and welcoming communities. Over the past five years, the visitor economy has grown by 57 per cent, with annual visitor expenditure now exceeding \$660 million. RDALC is excited to build on this strong tourism foundation.

Regional Priorities

- 1 Infrastructure Capability – Provision of economic enabling infrastructure**
RDALC provides regional data, insights and economic intelligence to help inform land use planning, water security, infrastructure priorities and strategic decision-making, ensuring future development aligns with the needs and opportunities of the Limestone Coast.
- 2 Developing Leadership in Action – Supporting leaders at all levels within the region**
RDALC is committed to supporting both formal and informal leaders, creating opportunities for them to grow, develop and strengthen their connection to the communities they serve – empowering people to play an active role in shaping the region's future.
- 3 Building Business Support – Supporting businesses where they are at**
RDALC meets businesses where they are at, providing practical support, connections and guidance tailored to their current needs, challenges and growth opportunities.
- 4 Education and Skill Development in the Limestone Coast**
Connection with employers, training providers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to unlock and strengthen workforce pathways and regional employment outcomes.

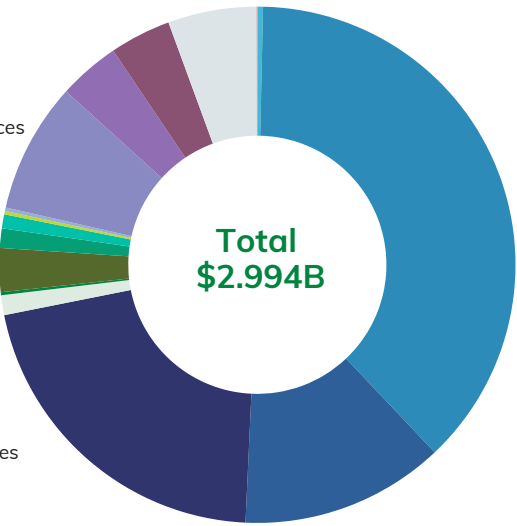
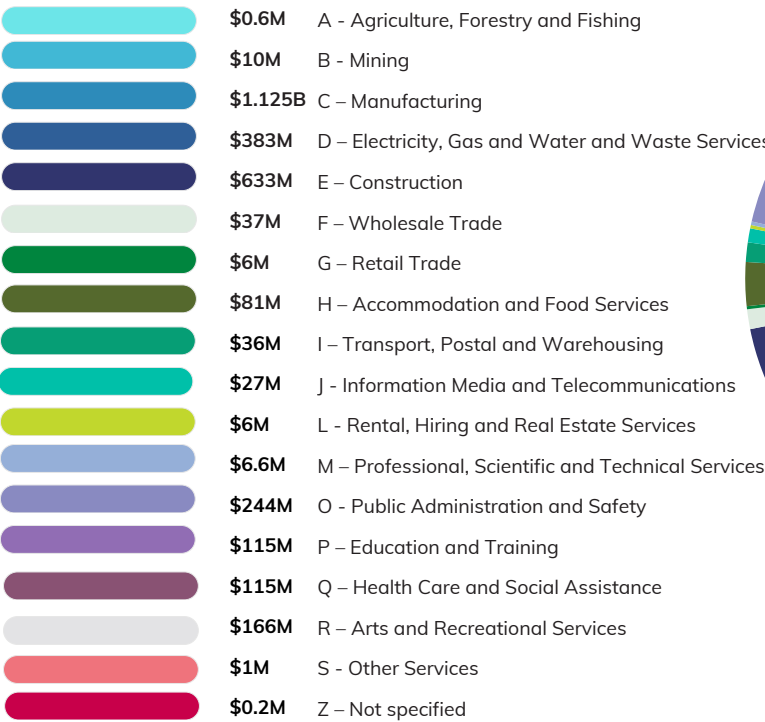
5 Strengthening and growing regional workforce capacity through greater investment in regional childcare

RDALC advocates for greater investment in childcare in the Limestone Coast to enable families returning to the workforce to support economic growth.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	69,336	69,717	381	0.55%
Number of Businesses	7,820	7,867	47	0.60%
GRP (\$B)	5.086	4.690	-0.396	-7.79%
Total Number of Jobs	34,084	33,165	-919	-2.70%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	2.460	2.994	0.534	21.72%
Tracked investment projects	200	210	10	5.00%

Regional Investment



MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND

The Murraylands and Riverland is a productive, export-focused region where agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy, tourism and logistics converge, creating significant opportunities for sustainable growth, diversification and investment.

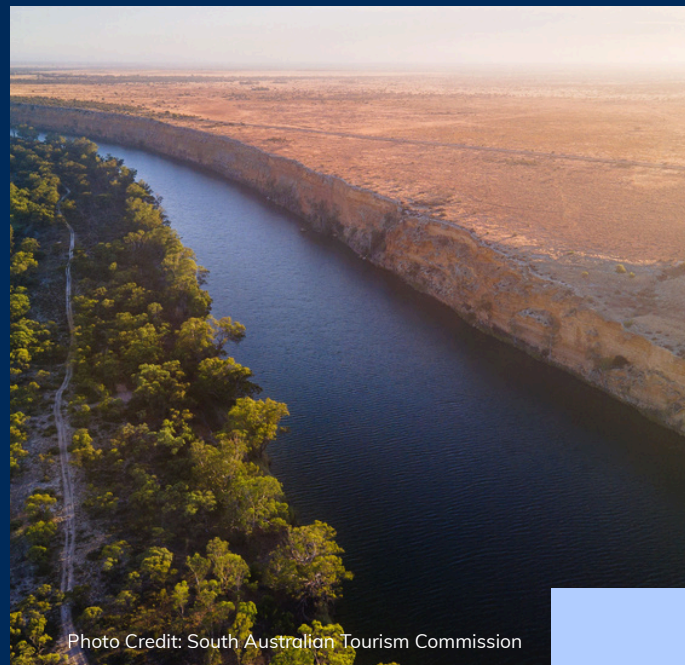


Photo Credit: South Australian Tourism Commission

The Murraylands and Riverland is entering a period of significant opportunity and transition. The Murray River (Moorundi) is the lifeblood of the region, sustaining its communities, industries, environment and way of life, while the Mallee landscapes underpin world-class dryland agriculture, livestock production and innovative food systems.

Home to almost 75,000 people, approximately 6,700 businesses and 32,000 local jobs, the region generates more than \$4.5 billion in economic output and around \$3.7 billion in annual exports. More than 190 investment projects valued at over \$19 billion are under consideration across renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, housing, tourism and value-added agriculture. Innovative small businesses are also exploring diverse crops, circular economy opportunities and social enterprise models.

Murray Bridge is experiencing strong growth, while the Riverland is responding to water reform, biosecurity risks and wine industry pressures by pursuing new opportunities. With coordinated investment and strong partnerships, the region is well positioned for a diverse, resilient and prosperous future.

Regional Priorities

- 1 Enabling infrastructure and housing**
Secure coordinated investment in housing, transport, water, energy, digital connectivity, industrial land, childcare and community services to unlock population, business and investment growth.
- 2 Water security and climate resilience**
Support communities and industries to adapt to drought, climate variability and Murray-Darling Basin reform while strengthening long-term water security, productivity and community wellbeing.
- 3 Industry transition and diversification**
Accelerate value-added agriculture, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, circular economy and tourism opportunities to create a more diverse, productive and resilient regional economy.
- 4 Workforce and skills**
Build local education and employment pathways, strengthen workforce participation and leadership, and attract and retain the skilled people that existing and emerging industries need.

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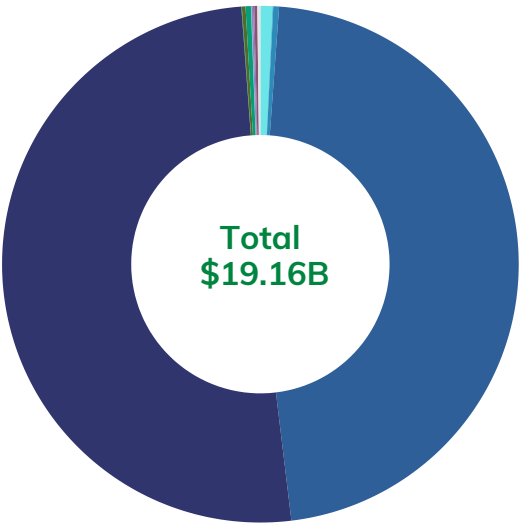
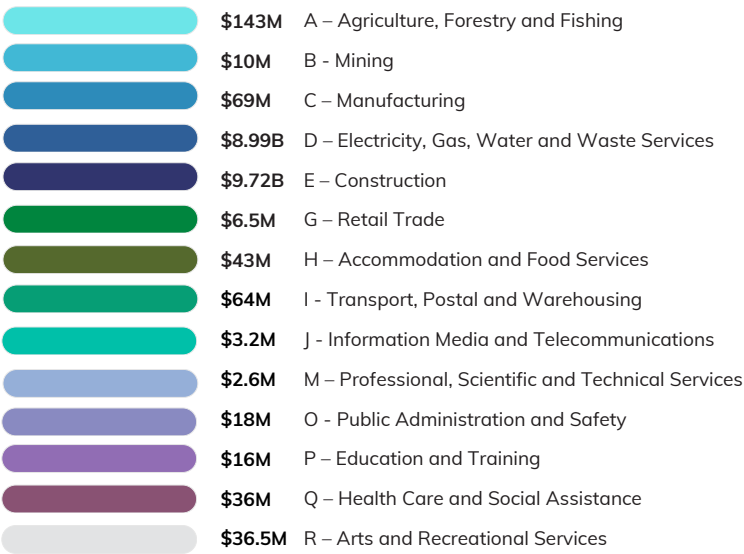
Investment, collaboration and advocacy

Convert the region’s substantial investment pipeline into outcomes through strong partnerships, regional intelligence, investment facilitation and coordinated advocacy to all levels of government.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	74,371	74,882	511	0.69%
Number of Businesses	6,746	6,730	-16	-0.24%
GRP (\$B)	5.223	4.560	-0.663	-12.69%
Total Number of Jobs	32,007	31,993	-14	-0.04%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	10.700	19.16	8.459	79.05%
Tracked investment projects	187	193	6	3.21%

Regional Investment



YORKE & MID NORTH

Our region in the Yorke and Mid North is typified by its diversity - with its landscapes ranging from high-rainfall, highly productive broadacre cropping through to marginal and pastoral lands, and communities ranging from provincial cities of more than 13,000 residents through to settlements of fewer than 50 people.



Photo Credit: Josh Geelen

Our region offers an abundance of potential, from its deep roots in primary production and related value-adding manufacturing through to more recent growth in renewable energy and tourism, and future opportunities in the production of critical minerals and low-carbon commodities. These strong fundamentals give the region a solid basis for future success.

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North aims to build on this prosperity and enhance the liveability of our communities.

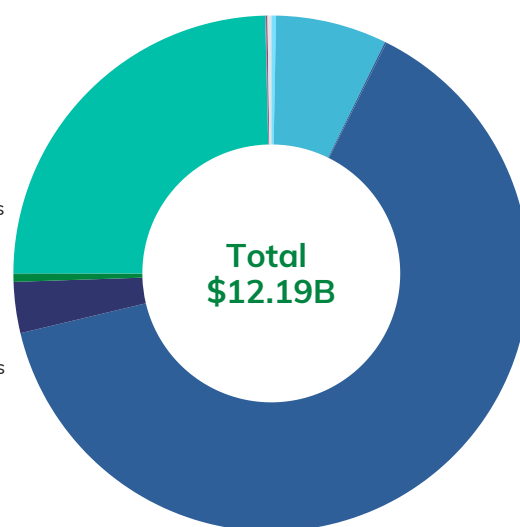
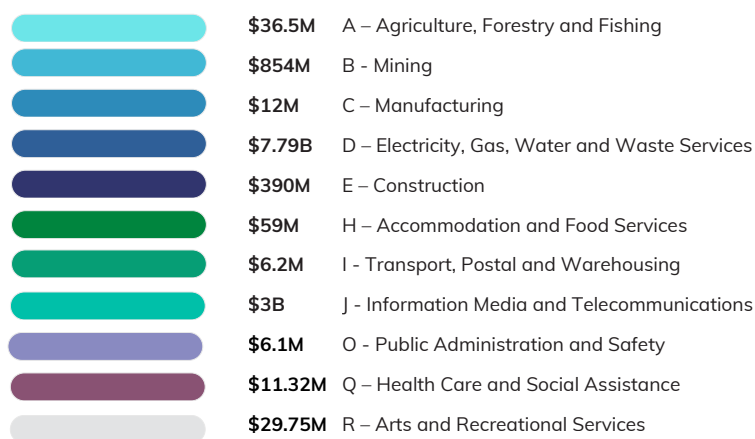
Regional Priorities

- 1 Water and wastewater**
Reform regulation to unlock growth-enabling investment, and improve visibility of network capacity status.
- 2 Economic complexity and diversification**
Identify value chain opportunities, align local area planning with precinct development, and build capability in smaller regional businesses.
- 3 Housing**
Deliver targeted initiatives to support housing and enabling infrastructure in regional areas.
- 4 Improve health, aged care and childcare services**
Encourage diverse housing typology to accommodate ageing populations and grow aged care capacity, while expanding access to Rural Care and Family Day Care services in small communities.
- 5 Improve workforce and skills**
Delivering career adviser services and expand training diversity in region where possible.

Regional Data

	2025	2026	Difference	% Change
Population	79,407	79,932	525	0.66%
Number of Businesses	7,707	7,786	79	1.03%
GRP (\$B)	5.218	4.831	-0.387	-7.42%
Total Number of Jobs	29,426	29,820	394	1.34%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)	9.540	12.19	2.657	27.85%
Tracked investment projects	68	77	9	13.24%

Regional Investment



References

Regional Development South Australia Regional Blueprint Edition 6



Economic Foreword

The Guardian — Jackson Hole/Federal Reserve coverage
The Guardian — Carney/Trump trade tensions
The New York Times — Opinion, US-Canada trade
World Bank — Trade (% of GDP), Australia
Business SA — State of the Business Economy, June 2026
The Advertiser/Adelaide Now — Whyalla rescue package



Aggregated Data – Regional SA

Population, economic, and demographic data are sourced from .id (Informed Decisions) and are current as at the date of extraction. .id figures are subject to periodic revision as source datasets are updated; figures in this edition may therefore differ slightly from those in prior or future editions.

This material was compiled and presented by .id, the population experts. www.id.com.au.

This material is a derivative of ABS Data that can be accessed from the website of the Australian Bureau of Statistics at www.abs.gov.au, and which data can be licensed on terms published on the ABS website.



Regional Profiles

Regional profile data in this publication has been sourced from REMPLAN, .id (informed decisions), the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), as provided by each Regional Development Australia (RDA) region.



Imagery

Regional Development South Australia thanks Brand SA and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) for the use of imagery throughout this publication. Individual photo credits appear alongside images.

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For further information about Regional Development South Australia, the Regional Development Australia network in South Australia, and economic development in regional South Australia, **visit www.regionaldevelopmentsa.com.au**

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An Australian Government Initiative



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