

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Infrastructure Prioritisation Update December 2025

An annexure to the 2023 report



Daniel Trimboli | Longview Vineyard | Adelaide Hills



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.



Wayville | Gary Francis



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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Foreword



Hon Rob Kerin

Executive Chair, Regional Development South Australia

The RDA network in South Australia

The Regional Development South Australia (RDSA) network of Regional Development Australia (RDA) organisations is independent, non-partisan and funded by all three levels of government. We are well-placed to provide specific local intelligence to advance regional challenges and evidence-based decision-making. We aim to capitalise on regional SA's unprecedented opportunity for population and industry growth while bringing together data, policy, and solutions to address key challenges and meet industry demands.

RDSA and its member RDA organisations continue to cement our critical roles in facilitating economic development across all South Australian (SA) regions. As the peak body for regional development in SA, RDSA enables collaborative policy development and advocacy to drive regional economic growth.

RDSA's role in advocating for enabling infrastructure

Enabling infrastructure must be effectively coordinated across all levels of government, working alongside industry and communities, to sustain regional communities and economies, and unlock investment and growth opportunities. Fit-for-purpose infrastructure (water, power, transport, and telecommunications) is essential for growth and thriving communities. RDSA is key in advocating for regionally significant infrastructure delivery to support sustainability and future growth.

RDSA Infrastructure Prioritisation 2023 – status update

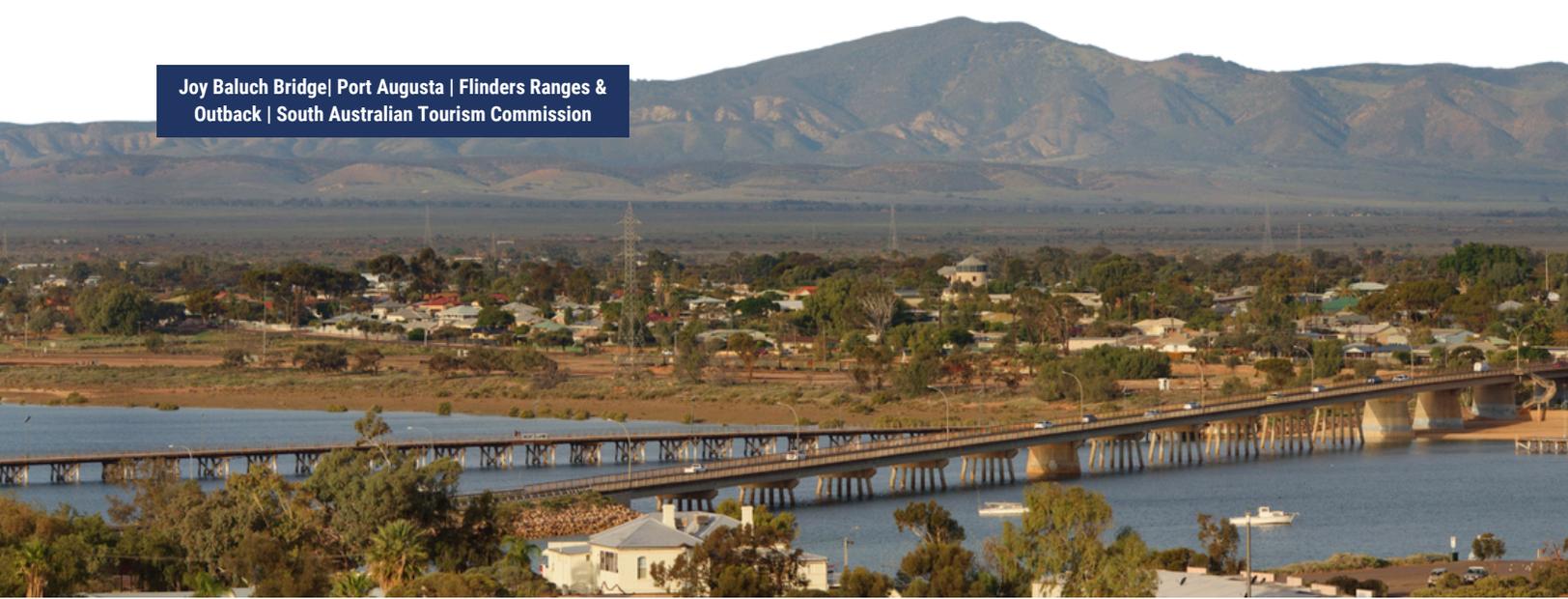
In December 2023, RDSA released its third Infrastructure Prioritisation Report. This 2025 update (an annexure to the [2023 report](#)) provides a snapshot of progress on the top-priority infrastructure projects in each region. This report reflects the status of priority projects identified in late 2023. No new projects have been added. Individual RDAs continue to separately track and advocate for new priority projects for each region.

Regional profile data, including the pipeline of economic investment by region, has also been updated.

Statewide regional infrastructure challenges

In addition to identifying prioritised individual regional projects, the 2023 report offered a holistic view, applying a program lens to the significant infrastructure challenges facing South Australia's regions. Whilst some challenges and opportunities in the regions can be addressed through individual projects, some areas require a more holistic approach. This is mainly due to scale, with some needs transcending regional boundaries and impacting a broader population.

The 2023 RDSA Infrastructure Prioritisation highlighted four sectors as falling into this category – housing, childcare, digital, and jetty infrastructure. The RDA network resolved that a program-based approach offers the most significant potential to meet these needs for affected communities. Work continues to address these key enablers, including developing policy papers to inform advocacy and collaborative championing of critical projects.



Joy Baluch Bridge | Port Augusta | Flinders Ranges & Outback | South Australian Tourism Commission

What has changed - statewide context

South Australian Government

Regional Plans

Led by the State Planning Commission, the state's regional planning framework, delivered in a digital format, provides the tools to establish growth strategies and conduct infrastructure investigations to inform investment priorities. Each region in South Australia has a plan to guide development and fulfil the vision of the State Planning Policies. Regional plans set the direction for future planning and development of South Australia (<https://regional.plan.sa.gov.au/>).

Development of regional infrastructure plans and Infrastructure Schemes

The Regional plan dashboard provides a summary of implementation actions and status (<https://regional.plan.sa.gov.au/dashboard>). Of significance to RDSA, the Department for Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) has, over the next four years, responsibility for the development of regional infrastructure plans and Infrastructure Schemes. DHUD will partner with Infrastructure SA (ISA) to develop regional infrastructure plans and regional-scale Infrastructure Schemes to ensure that catalytic infrastructure has an agreed delivery timeframe and funding arrangements from all relevant infrastructure providers.

Other planning processes in progress or planned, relevant to the implementation of the Regional Plans and the delivery of supporting infrastructure and growth include:

- SA Housing Roadmap
- State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill 2025
- SA's Transport Strategy 2025
- South Australia's Public Transport Strategy

Regional Development South Australia

Regional SA Investment Pipeline

Key to our advocacy for government and private sector investment in infrastructure is the evidence RDAs gather that supports the economic business case for infrastructure investment.

RDA Investment Pipeline tracking provides valuable insights to inform external investors and governments in decision-making. The information held can guide and enhance strategic planning for utilities, water supply, skill development, housing, and both soft and hard infrastructure.

RDSA 2025 Regional SA Investment Pipeline Forecast

An analysis of over 1,000 public and private sector projects in the RDSA Regional Investment Pipeline highlights \$98B in capital expenditure under contemplation in regional South Australia as at June 2025, up from \$65B as at June 2024. To be included in the pipeline, these investments must be under active contemplation, under funding consideration, and/or under construction for commencement within the next five years.

RDSA Regional Priorities Statement, Strong Regions, Smart Growth

In June 2025, we released the inaugural RDSA Regional Priorities Statement, Strong Regions, Smart Growth ([Resources - Regional Development South Australia](#)). The statement was developed to inform and guide statewide regional advocacy, engagement, and policy development.

This landmark document calls on governments, industry, and communities to collaborate on a bold new approach to regional development across South Australia. The statement outlines a clear vision for productive, resilient, and globally competitive regions that underpin the state's long-term prosperity and sustainability. It outlines the strategic priorities and collaborative actions required to position regional South Australia at the forefront of the state's growth agenda.

In the context of this Infrastructure Prioritisation Update, the statement identifies the need to address key regional infrastructure challenges that hinder regional growth. It further recognises the need to create a long-term plan to address these issues, best supporting regional sustainability and development, and to reduce the cost of doing business.

The statement recognises the critical importance of increasing regional infrastructure capacity. RDSA is advocating for the timely development of regional infrastructure plans aligned with economic and population growth plans – housing, water, energy, roads, telecommunications, and social infrastructure. We also recognise the importance of establishing innovative funding models, including the increased use of public-private partnerships, to unlock capital for delivering game-changing regional infrastructure projects.



ADELAIDE HILLS FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND

The region's economy and investment activity continue to power ahead with several major private and public infrastructure projects starting site works and construction. Population growth is driving the region's economy, but it presents ongoing challenges for planning and investment in the necessary public infrastructure. It also presents plenty of opportunities for the private sector. Based on the last couple of decades of growth and future population projections outlined in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, this growth will continue well into the future, as the region offers an enviable lifestyle opportunity.

Key Data

Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		145,351	142,556	2,795	1.96%
Number of Businesses		12,608	12,379	229	1.85%
GRP (\$B)		7	6.74	0.26	4.01%
Total Number of Jobs		48,757	48,527	230	0.47%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		2.55	2.73	-0.18	-5.50%
Tracked investment projects		155	165	-10	-6.06%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Mount Barker City Centre Project	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	High	<p>3 Stages:</p> <p>Stage 1A – town square, plaza and retail corner</p> <p>Stage 1B – offices, retail, car parking, Council-owned building</p> <p>Stage 2 – accommodation and further car parking</p> <p>Stage 1A will deliver key elements of the project, including a publicly owned 2,000m² Town Square designed for everyday use and community events. A new plaza will connect Hutchinson and Stephen Streets, providing accessible parking, and a drop-off zone, and will also serve as an extension of the Town Square for markets and gatherings. The stage also includes a privately owned retail corner to activate the street frontage and support a vibrant, people-focused precinct. The construction of the town square and activation of the retail corner cottage is anticipated to commence in January 2026.</p>
Hahndorf Freeway Interchange Adelaide Road	Planning	Transport	High	Funded 80/20 by Australian and State governments. Site survey works are underway. Construction completion target late 2027.
Hahndorf Main Street Upgrade	Investment Ready	Transport	Medium	After the Australian Government's 2023 decision to withdraw its portion of the \$250 million allocated for the Hahndorf Township Improvements and Access Upgrade project, the broader upgrade for Hahndorf Main Street is now on hold.
Heysen Boulevard completion	Advocacy	Transport	In development	Updated capex \$60-65m.
Northern Freight Bypass				<p>New freight route from Monarto to Truro to remove freight from the hills.</p> <p>Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass is a South Australian Government Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) priority as part of the High Productivity Vehicle Network (HPVN) program. Australian Government commitment is \$500m, awaiting State Government commitment. Business cases for specific parts of the bypass are underway.</p>

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Victor Harbor and South Road Duplication	Feasibility	Transport	In development	No change.
The Precinct: Regional Community, Sport, and Recreation Precinct	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	Medium	Project location – Victor Harbor. Updated capex \$41m.
Upgrade to old Victor Harbor Steam Ranger Line	Advocacy	Transport	In development	\$40m funding needed for bridge maintenance and upgrades. For safety reasons, passenger trips have ceased on one section.
Mount Barker Wastewater Infrastructure	Investment ready	Waste	High	Construction-ready expansion and upgrade to cater for population growth requires >\$100m capex. Mount Barker District Council is seeking \$48m in Australian and State Government co-funding.
Fleurieu Freight Route By-Pass (South Coast Freight Corridor)	Feasibility	Transport	Other	The Victor Harbor – Goolwa Bypass section of the South Coast Freight Corridor (SCFC) is identified as a priority piece of infrastructure for the Fleurieu in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP). Waiting for DIT to release the Fleurieu Transport Plan which is hoped will identify and prioritise the need for planning and upgrades to this bypass as stage 1 of the SCFC.

BAROSSA GAWLER LIGHT ADELAIDE PLAINS

BGLAP is a significant economic driver for South Australia, contributing approximately \$4 billion in Gross Regional Product and supporting over 6,200 regional businesses. The major industries powering this growth include agribusiness (wine, food, and broader agriculture), tourism, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure development, and the care economy. Driven by its strategic location on Adelaide’s industrial growth corridor, the region has seen substantial expansion, including more than \$100 million in GRP and 200 new businesses in the last two years. This unprecedented growth is set to continue for the next 15+ years, with both Federal and South Australian Governments identifying BGLAP as a key high-growth area.

Key Data

Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		82,102	80,605	1,497	1.86%
Number of Businesses		6,229	6,064	165	2.72%
GRP (\$B)		3.96	4.048	-0.008	-2.17%
Total Number of Jobs		29,790	29,106	684	2.35%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		4.43	3.76	0.67	17.76%
Tracked investment projects		178	184	-6	-3.26%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
<p>Water Supply to Support Economic Growth</p> <p>Barossa New Water</p>		<p>The New Water Infrastructure to the Barossa Project (Barossa New Water) aims to deliver new, secure, climate-independent (proposed NAIS) and affordable water to complement other water sources to supply the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley. The project addresses industry demand from the wine, livestock, and horticulture sectors for new water sources. It will provide security from declining rainfall, surface water and underground water availability. Business Case completed by Kellogg Brown and Root Pty Ltd.</p>		<p>The Barossa New Water & Clare Valley New Water Region project is still regarded as a cross-regional play for industry water security, however the water security landscape across the BGLAP region has evolved and grown significantly – water security for industry and housing is critical. Further, the development and finalisation of the South Australian Government’s Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (released on 17 March 2025), has significantly impacted the region’s already high growth trajectory, including water infrastructure priorities. The Plan articulates a long-term vision to 2051 and identifies where 315,000 new homes will be built throughout Greater Adelaide, of which – more than 55,000 homes will be built across the Two Wells, Roseworthy and Kudla areas in the BGLAP region – all requiring new water and wastewater infrastructure. The strategic rationale of the project in 2023 (drought resilience; agri-value uplift; price/connection barriers to existing NAIS) remains current, with detailed delivery and affordability models still continuing to gate implementation. The project’s original key stakeholders remain unchanged with the exception of the Department for Environment and Water taking over from the Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA.</p>
<p>Freight Transport Infrastructure</p>	<p>Feasibility</p>	<p>Transport</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Freight need continues to intensify across the region due to two significant rezoning approvals for employment lands at Dublin and Concordia, as well as significant planned housing developments per the South Australian Government’s Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP) (released on 17 March 2025). Specific corridor packages still require scoping/funding, but the planning case for upgrades is stronger under GARP’s growth distribution. Pleasingly, RDABGLAP notes that DIT, recently announced that the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass is a priority project for Stage 1 of the HPV program which is focused on improving freight productivity on existing corridors by moving more with less vehicles, enhancing safety for all road users, including the Sturt Highway.</p>

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Critical Infrastructure to Support Phase One Establishment of Concordia Development	Advocacy	Social and Community Infrastructure	High	RDABGLAP has continued to work directly with Concordia stakeholders, including the Barossa Council, the Town of Gawler, and the Department for Housing and Urban Development regarding the required critical infrastructure, necessary to unlock the economic development growth and benefits for our region. As at October 2025, Minister Champion has adopted the Concordia Code Amendment, and the Basic Infrastructure Scheme, which sets out the triggers and scope for critical infrastructure, including civic (roads, water, ++), social (schools, childcare, ++) and digital.
Flood Protection and Water Proofing for Gawler	Feasibility	Water	High	The Flood Protection and Water Proofing for Gawler project remains a priority for the region, and the expectation amongst project stakeholders remains that a multi-measure package will be required and staged. RDABGLAP's role in this project has devolved since 2023, and with the exception of supporting the project consortia to seek State or Federal funding, the project requires Councils to agree to required infrastructure and funding, much of which is prohibitive to Council annual budgets, in order to initiate implementation.
Energy & Water Solution for Dublin & Carslake Road Precinct	Feasibility	Energy	In development	Energy and water requirements of multiple businesses continue to be critical priorities for unlocking growth in this precinct. Since late 2023, RDABGLAP attempted to undertake a high-level study to identify the aggregate demand and supply of water and energy needs of businesses in the precinct so as to inform discussions with public and private stakeholders. More recently, the Minister for Planning's approval of a Code Amendment for the Dublin Green precinct (slightly further north of this project precinct) has not only validated the need for infrastructure expansion, but also signalled the potential opportunity to provide localised supply and servicing for water and energy requirements to Carslake Road businesses through any surplus water and energy generated at the Dublin Green precinct.

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Wastewater Management & Water Reuse	Feasibility	Water	Medium	Since late 2023, the Adelaide Plains Council has accepted LGA Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) program funding to progress concept design and is continuing staged design/approvals. Broader growth settings from GARP (and Environmental Food Production Area (EFPA) reforms) increase the urgency to bring serviced land online.
Creative Industries Precinct	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	Medium	In February 2025, The Barossa Council announced that “the funding agreement for the Barossa Creative Industries Centre Project, has now been fully executed with the necessary government departments”. As at October 2025, RDABGLAP understands the planning, development and stakeholder engagement is underway. More can be found here .
Northern Sports Hub & Gawler Aquatic Centre	Advocacy	Social and Community Infrastructure	In development	Since late 2023, RDABGLAP notes that an iteration of this development is identified in the Gawler Invest 2024 portfolio, and, that the Regional Aquatic Centre - Essex Park, Princes Park and Showgrounds project has “commenced” with a 2-4 year timeframe. More information can be found here .
Drover’s Encounter	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	Medium	The Drover’s Encounter project remains reliant on partner investment and or tourism funding rounds. The project’s positioning remains aligned with the region’s visitor-economy strengths.
Great Australian Wine Trail	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	Medium	A partnership between SA regional RDAs and six regional consortium councils, the Great Australian Wine Trail Feasibility Report was completed in 2021 and the project is investment ready. In late 2025, the project implementation remains subject to council funding priorities. More can be found here .

EYRE PENINSULA

Operational issues at the Whyalla Steelworks have led to the deferral of several hydrogen projects planned across the region, with funding previously committed to these projects redirected into a \$2.4 billion package to secure the continued operation of Australia’s only sovereign structural steel manufacturing facility and future industrial transformation. Climate variability and extreme weather events, such as drought and the Harmful Algal Bloom, also continue to impact heavily on the region’s prosperity, requiring the provision of additional support for affected industries and highlighting the need for further economic diversification to build greater economic resilience.

Key Data

Eyre Peninsula		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		59,406	59,207	199	0.34%
Number of Businesses		5,180	5,089	91	1.79%
GRP (\$B)		5.16	4.47	0.69	15.51%
Total Number of Jobs		26,796	26,554	242	0.91%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		25.60	30.67	-5.07	-16.53%
Tracked investment projects		157	112	46	40.10%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Hydrogen Jobs Plan and Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub	Investment Ready	Energy	High	<p>Hydrogen Jobs Plan: The SA Government's priorities have shifted from the Hydrogen Jobs Plan to the Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Project. More information can be found here. Combined State and Federal investment in the Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Project is \$2.4 billion. The priority level for the Hydrogen Jobs Plan project has been reduced to low.</p> <p>Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub: All six private consortia have withdrawn from participating in the project. More information can be found here.</p>
Northern Water project	Feasibility	Water	High	The SA Government has announced Mullaquana Station as their preferred location for the Northern Water project, with all further environmental and geotechnical investigations to be concentrated at that location. The forecast operational date to satisfy BHP's requirements for water is 2032. More information can be found here .
Cape Hardy Industrial Precinct and Port	Investment Ready	Industry Enabling Infrastructure	Medium	The precinct is continuing to make progress, although AMP Energy have sold its Hydrogen interests in the site to Revera Energy. All other entities continue as previously outlined, including Iron Road Ltd and Eyre Peninsula Cooperative Bulk Handling (EPCBH). EPCBH and Iron Road are working together to establish a grain export business with appropriate facilities at Iron Road's proposed deep-sea port at Cape Hardy.
Tumby Bay Jetty				<p>At 120 years old, the Tumby Bay Jetty is partially closed to the public. The proposal is for a "like for like" replacement except for the capability to dock large sailing cargo vessels which was the original purpose of the jetty. It is likely that a new jetty would be of steel and concrete construction instead of the original wooden construction.</p> <p>The District Council of Tumby Bay has resolved to not renew their lease with the State Government for the care and control of the jetty, effectively handing it back to the State Government. Discussions regarding the future care and control of all jetties in the state, and the level of investment required to ensure they are fit for purpose continues to be priority for the region.</p>

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Thevenard Port Expansion and Efficiencies	Feasibility	Freight	High	Improving the efficiency of the Thevenard Port remains a high priority with discussions between Flinders Port Holdings and all users to investigate works to maximise ship load capabilities.
SA Water Southern Desalination Plant and Distribution Network Upgrade	Investment Ready	Water	High	With all major contracts now in place and early works complete, the project has entered full construction. The new plant, along with supporting marine infrastructure and a transfer pipeline to deliver fresh drinking water to the SA Water network, is expected to be operational by late 2026. Environmental sustainability and regional water security remain key priorities as construction progresses, more information can be found here . Works to upgrade network infrastructure across the region is still a major priority.
Port Lincoln Marina and Wharf Upgrade	Feasibility	Industry Enabling Infrastructure	In development	This project is now considered a high priority. Scoping/feasibility works is now ending and the need to secure funding required is urgent.
Whyalla Foreshore Development	Deliver the Whyalla Foreshore Master Plan to harness socio-economic recreation and tourism development opportunities. Includes the development of the foreshore park area and a five-star destination hotel development.			The Whyalla Foreshore Master Plan has been adopted by Council. Project secured \$3.4 million in funding from the Federal Government to inject into the Whyalla Foreshore Master Plan.
Centre for Excellence – Hydrogen Production Use	Advocacy	Energy	Low	This is now a lower priority to mirror the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub.
Eyre Hub	Advocacy	Transport	Medium	Continuing to make solid progress, and seeking grant funding opportunities.

FAR NORTH

The Far North continues to navigate the combined pressures of rising service gaps and the challenge of attracting and retaining a stable workforce. Towns across the region face persistent livability constraints, including limited housing supply and stretched or absent childcare provision, all of which restrict both workforce mobility and business growth. At the same time, ongoing climate impacts and the vast distances between communities place increasing strain on essential infrastructure and local government capacity. Despite these challenges, the region holds strong potential through its strategic location, growing tourism profile, established pastoral sector, and a series of emerging opportunities linked to defence, critical minerals supply chains, and regional precinct development. Realising this potential will require coordinated investment in core services, housing enabling infrastructure, and community vibrancy initiatives to support population attraction, workforce stability, and long-term regional resilience.

Key Data

Far North		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		26,540	26,555	-15	-0.06%
Number of Businesses		1,422	1,432	-10	-0.70%
GRP (\$B)		6.58	6.25	0.33	5.31%
Total Number of Jobs		18,705	18,338	367	2.00%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		42.47	10.83	31.64	292.07%
Tracked investment projects		98	72	26	36.11%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Coober Pedy Water Supply	Investment Ready	Energy	Medium	No change – RDA Far North undertook a Water supply and demand analysis, providing more clarity around the need. More information can be found here .
Quorn Town Water Supply	Investment Ready	Energy	High	No change – continued advocacy. RDA Far North undertook a Water supply and demand analysis providing more clarity around the situation.
Port Augusta Housing Supply	Port Augusta is currently experiencing significant growth driven by the green energy and resources sector, with the current investment pipeline of projects in the council region and the immediate surrounding area totalling over \$6.5 billion, creating 5,360 construction jobs and 1,987 ongoing jobs. This places significant pressure on Port Augusta's already undersupplied housing supply. There is a need to increase housing supply to accommodate the growing population.			No change – Port Augusta Infrastructure for Growth Strategy developed further supporting the case for housing supply. More information can be found here .
Whole of Outback Integrated Water Management Strategy	Feasibility	Waste	Medium	No change – Outback Communities Authority focusing on Waste Management across the outback with a strategy developed (in early stages). RDA Far North undertook a Water supply and demand analysis.
Outback Power – Renewable Power Supply Audit and Recommendation Report	Feasibility	Energy	Medium	No change.
Integrated Outback Water Management Framework	Feasibility	Waste	Medium	No change - Outback Communities Authority focusing on Waste Management across the outback with a strategy developed (in early stages). RDA Far North undertook a Water supply and demand analysis.

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Multispecies Livestock Transshipping Hub	Feasibility	Industry Enabling Infrastructure	High	Working Group formed to drive project seeking to define the project scope and determine whether to prioritise efforts on a truck wash facility or the full centre. The small working group brings together individuals with expertise and interest in livestock production, transportation, biosecurity, environmental sustainability, local government, community, and funding development. The group has a focus of ensuring this initiative reflects the needs and opportunities of the agricultural sector as well as our community, including potential benefits to sectors.
Outback Roads	Investment Ready	Transport	In development	<p>Outback Roads Consultative Forum formed – focus as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather a deeper understanding of the various perspectives, priorities and needs associated with key representative groups. • Identify and prioritise key issues affecting the safety, accessibility, and sustainability of roads in Outback SA. • Enable members to discuss and provide input on the development of policies and strategies for the road network in Outback SA. • Provide recommendations to DIT on the allocation of resources for road maintenance priorities for outback roads. • Advise the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport on the management and maintenance of roads in Outback SA and priorities for new investment.
Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism accommodation upgrade program	Feasibility	Social and Community Infrastructure	In development	Individual accommodation upgrades across the region throughout the year but no change in a coordinated upgrade program.
Sealing of Yorkey's Crossing	Investment Ready	Freight	Medium	No Change – duplication of Joy Baluch Bridge completed so less urgency on this project

LIMESTONE COAST

Investment in key worker housing has commenced, with Renewal SA investing in a number of projects across the Limestone Coast. While demand remains high, significant private interest in housing is limited in most towns by one or more infrastructure challenges including water supply, wastewater disposal and/or electricity supply. Recent drought conditions have significantly impacted primary production businesses, with flow-on effects to farming communities, service industries and local government.

Key Data

Limestone Coast		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		69,336	69,137	199	0.29%
Number of Businesses		7,820	7,766	54	0.70%
GRP (\$B)		5.09	4.70	0.38	8.12%
Total Number of Jobs		34,084	34,316	-232	-0.68%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		2.46	1.72	0.74	43.05%
Tracked investment projects		200	142	58	40.85%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Bordertown Water Supply	Feasibility	Energy	Medium	SA Water have committed to the \$56 million installation of two new water storage tanks, associated pump station and mains. The project will supply an additional 9ML of storage to support Tatiara District Council's 10 year growth plan for housing and industrial development. Works will commence in late 2026 with completion due in early 2028.
Bordertown Electricity Grid Augmentation	Advocacy	Energy	Medium	Significant investment is required to upgrade transmission infrastructure to reduce reliance on diesel power generation and allow renewable energy to supply the grid.
Regional Telecommunications Connectivity Upgrades	Investment Ready	Telecommunications	High	Planning and approvals are well underway for 26 new mobile phone towers across the Limestone Coast. Funded by Federal, State and Local Government and the Forest Industry with construction due for completion in 2026.
Mount Gambier Saleyards and Industrial Estate	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	High	Continuing to seek Federal funding to match commitments from State and Local Government.
Upgrade to the Green Triangle Road Network	Advocacy	Transport	High	Major upgrades required on State roads throughout the region. Southern Ports Highway upgrade underway. A revised Green Triangle Regional Freight Action Plan is in development.
New Kingston Childcare Centre	The Kingston Early Learning & Childcare Services Working Group and Kingston District Council have sourced funding from local, state and federal governments to deliver a new centre co-located within the grounds of an existing community facility (Kingston Community School).			New centre funded by Federal and State Government to increase from 45 places to 83.

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Upgrade of Drainage Network Infrastructure in Limestone Coast	Investment Ready	Transport	High	Long term commitment still required to fund capital works in accordance with asset management plans.
Major Upgrade to Visitor Facilities at Naracoorte Caves	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	Medium	Business case prepared for State Government and funding sought for development of master plan.
Construction of a Materials Recovery Facility for Limestone Coast	Feasibility	Waste	Medium	Not currently seeking to progress.
Implementation of the Limestone Coast Regional Trails Masterplan	Feasibility	Social and Community Infrastructure	In development	Revision of Trails Masterplan being undertaken by Limestone Coast Local Government Association.

MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND

The impacts of the River Murray flood and the ongoing drought have reinforced the region's need for water security, climate-resilient infrastructure, and greater economic diversification. The inclusion of Murray Bridge within the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, coupled with the announcement of the Gifford Hill residential development, signals a significant growth agenda and a coordinated approach to unlocking housing supply. Substantial opportunities also exist across renewable energy, the activation of the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve, the advancement of industry-enabling precincts, and value-adding in the agricultural sector.

Key Data

Murraylands & Riverland		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		74,371	73,771	600	0.81%
Number of Businesses		6,746	6,699	47	0.70%
GRP (\$B)		5.22	4.82	0.41	8.41%
Total Number of Jobs		32,007	32,137	-130	-0.40%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		10.70	2.79	7.91	283.40%
Tracked investment projects		187	167	20	11.98%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Circular Economy Precincts - 1: Waikerie residential and industrial development	Feasibility	Energy	Medium	In development: 1000ha site for a sustainable olive grove and Business Park, backed by key infrastructure projects. Approvals and technical investigations are underway. Water infrastructure and plantings are planned for 2026. The residential element of this project is yet to receive development approvals.
Circular Economy Precincts - 2: Soft plastics upcycling	Investment Ready	Waste	Medium	Continue to seek private/public investment.
Connecting the Region	Investment Ready	Telecommunications	Medium	In development: various NBN upgrades to towers across the region.
Truro Bypass and Greater Adelaide Bypass	A number of road construction projects are underway (Princes Highway and Sturt Highway Corridor upgrades), with some now under review by the Australian Government (Truro Bypass) and others with business cases developed but not progressing (Greater Adelaide Bypass) - all are critical to enable South Australia to maintain and grow regional to market transport of agricultural products.			With the Australian Government committing \$525 million over 10 years to deliver the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, this includes the Truro township bypass, the duplication of the Swanport Bridge (near Murray Bridge), and various upgrades to road infrastructure between Monarto and the Sturt Highway.
Murray Coorong Trail and Dark Sky Reserve	Investment Ready	Social and Community Infrastructure	Medium	Funded Murray Coorong Trail sections are complete, with the Local Government consortium seeking additional funding to develop further sections. River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve (RMIDSR) is beginning to attract private tourism investment. A Dark Sky Code Amendment is urgently required to ensure the preservation of the International Dark Sky accreditation.

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Hydrogen and Biomethane Renewables Hub	Feasibility	Energy	High	The approval process is underway for the Riverbend Energy Hub – a 3-stage project processing dry biomass and waste feedstock for full waste-to-hydrogen manufacturing, through to ammonia-urea.
Renewable Energy Nodes	Investment Ready	Energy	Medium	In development: Significant private investment throughout the Murraylands and Riverland in Solar Farms and Battery Energy Storage. Tilt Renewables (Palmer Wind Farm) has received planning consent.
Southern Food Tech Precinct	Feasibility	Industry Enabling Infrastructure	Medium	The concept has been further refined with a Regional Precincts and Partnership Program – Stream 1 funding application submitted. RDAMR is the project lead with eight regional partners, including business, not-for-profits and Local Government.
Riverland Sustainable Growth Precinct	Feasibility	Industry Enabling Infrastructure	High	SA River Murray Communities Water Transition Program (formerly referred to as Riverland Sustainable Growth Precinct). A business case has been developed (led by PIRSA) to transition SA River Murray communities to higher-value economic opportunities under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. An initial \$20 million program to assist in mitigating the social and economic impacts of water recovery will be released in late 2025.
Supporting Infrastructure for Housing	Seeking state investment in planning, processing and implementing supporting infrastructure for regional housing - private investors are putting forward proposals in unprecedented numbers but there are multiple bottlenecks along the process (from planning and approvals, through to workforce and implementation of road and utilities to the development sites).			Gifford Hill – Murray Bridge: \$7.6 Billion, 40yr project, 17,000 homes, detailed planning underway. Jane Eliza – Renmark: \$415 Million, housing/marina/tourism/houseboat industry development.

YORKE & MID NORTH

Drought, other climatic events (including Harmful Algal Bloom events) and a series of changes to major employers have re-emphasised the need to diversify the regional economy across the Yorke and Mid North, with significant opportunities available in this regard via proposals for value adding activities using existing and planned agricultural supply chains, renewable energy projects, and various magnetite and rare earth projects.

Key Data

Yorke & Mid North		2025	2024	Difference	% Change
Population		79,407	78,904	503	0.64%
Number of Businesses		7,707	7,609	98	1.29%
GRP (\$B)		5.22	4.51	0.71	15.78%
Total Number of Jobs		29,426	29,308	118	0.40%
Pipeline Project Total Value (\$B)		9.54	12.93	-3.39	-26.24%
Tracked investment projects		68	86	-18	-20.93%

Status update – 2023 top 10 infrastructure priorities for the region

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Complete and implement Master Planning for Provincial Cities	Advocacy	Social and Community Infrastructure	High	Structure plans and feasibility studies for key components of the Port Pirie master plan had been referred to Cabinet Committees, with a decision to proceed with further work being contingent on progress being made by Nyrstar through its October 2025 shut and trial antimony plant (per an update provided by Minister Koutsantonis at the Community Cabinet held in Port Pirie).
Regional Childcare Program	Leverage funding through the Preschool Reform Agreement between the Australian and State and Territory governments to provide universal access to preschool for three-year-olds. Address specific recommendations from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (recommendations which the State Government has endorsed).			OECD is working with RDAs to progress a range of initiatives aimed at supporting shovel-ready projects for funding by the Commonwealth. Work continues for a host of individual projects, including Kadina, Orroroo, Crystal Brook and Ardrossan.
Braemar infrastructure Corridor	Feasibility	Industry Enabling Infrastructure	High	Work continues to investigate infrastructure and service improvement opportunities along the corridor between the Braemar province and various paths to market, focusing on improvements that will benefit local communities between Peterborough, Orroroo, Jamestown, Gladstone and Port Pirie.
Port Pirie Southwest Housing Project	Feasibility	Housing	High	Conceptual planning has been prepared by SA Water, with funding sought for detailed designs and costings work through the 2025-26 State Budget. Work continues to secure funding for these detailed designs from another funding opportunity.
Regional Key Workers Housing Scheme	Expand the current pilot regional key worker scheme to include other regions and be available to a broad range of employers and industries.			Additional trial sites expanding in Port Pirie following successful completions in Whyalla, Port Augusta and Kadina. Further investigations underway in Port Pirie, Jamestown and Clare.

Project	Class	Infrastructure Type	2023 Prioritisation	2025 Status Update
Augusta Highway Upgrades	Feasibility	Transport	High	Project remains in the forward capital program, but understood to not be funded in the current forward estimates.
Regional Jetty Infrastructure	<p>The region has 20 Jetties and one Wharf. 11 of the 20 jetties are in the care and control of Yorke Peninsula (YP) Council. Current anticipated costs for the works required imminently are estimated at \$20 - \$25 million for the 11 YP Jetties, with further detailed assessment required for ongoing and long-term asset management. The SA Government state-wide Jetties Strategic Plan 2020 has been completed but not released. DIT's SA Jetties Pilot Program developed business cases including Edithburgh and Port Germein jetties. The role of jetties in regional tourism and recreation economies is substantial.</p>			<p>Initial \$20m commitment made by State Government being rolled out over four years. Additional investment required to secure full suite of jetty assets across coastal South Australia, with impact of current Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) events demonstrating how important these assets are to coastal communities and regional economies.</p>
Clare Valley New Water	Feasibility	<p>Development of a new water source to increase investment and enable industries to grow. Due to limited local water supplies and prohibitive costs from the Clare Valley Water Supply Scheme (CVWSS), many winemakers have relocated for better returns, causing underinvestment in the region's growth and development. New water sources are essential to support economic growth and agriculture in the area.</p>	High	<p>Short-term options being investigated via working party coordinated through DEW, focusing on intra-regional swaps of existing contracted volumes. Medium and longer-term options being considered to access new treated volumes made available via a potential expansion of Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant, as well as enabling upgrades to distribution networks, trunk infrastructure and storages (including community and off-grid options).</p>



Copper cladding on Adelaide Oval
-Resourceful SA Campaign, SA Chamber
of Mines and Energy

John Montesi | Oval Hotel | Adelaide



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Referencing:

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An annexure to the 2023 report

Data sourced November 2025 - Economy .id data June 2024
www.economy.id.com.au

Contact Us:

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

Co-ordinated by Regional Development Australia Adelaide on behalf of Regional Development South Australia.



Government of South Australia



Local Government Association of South Australia

