

News Release **Minister Geoff Brock**

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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Regional Development Minister in Mount Gambier for talks tomorrow

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock is visiting Mount Gambier tomorrow as part of an initial state-wide swing through the regions.

Mr Brock – who’s also Local Government Minister – said he planned to use the early weeks in his new role as a Cabinet Minister to visit major regional centres as a first step in hearing about the issues concerning residents living outside of the Adelaide metropolitan area.

“I’m very keen to meet people face-to-face as I travel around the regions, so I can hear their concerns first-hand,” Mr Brock said.

“I’m obviously aware of the issues in my own electorate of Frome, but I see my role as being a voice in Cabinet for all of the regions, so I’m using these early weeks to get out and meet as many people as I can, and then come back at a later date for a longer period.

“Regional SA is home to 30 per cent of the State’s population with the regions contributing more than \$20 billion to our economy and producing over 50 per cent of our overseas exports.

“I’ll be bringing a regional focus to the Cabinet table in both my roles as Local Government Minister and Regional Development Minister.

“My role will include overseeing the State Government’s \$39 million funding package I’ve initially secured for the regions to drive growth and improve infrastructure including a one-off \$10 million job accelerator fund quarantined for regional development.

“My emphasis is on creating jobs and providing opportunities for growth in the regions in areas such as infrastructure projects, small business, tourism development and getting our world class products to the marketplace,” Mr Brock said.

In Mount Gambier, Mr Brock is scheduled to meet with Mayor Steve Perryman, the President of the South East Local Government Association and Tatiara District Council Mayor, Richard Vickery, the Chair of Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast, Ruth Schubert and local House of Assembly members.

Mr Brock also plans to meet with representatives of the Limestone Coast Diversification Group and visit Holla-Fresh at Tantanoola – one of Australia’s leading hydroponic fresh herb farms recently inducted into the Brand SA Regional Awards Hall of Fame.

He’ll also visit Mayura Station at Millicent to inspect the Wagyu beef feedlot and tasting room and construction of new feed pens funded through the Regional Development Fund.

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