

News Release **Minister Geoff Brock**

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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Regional Development Minister visiting Kangaroo Island

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock is visiting Kangaroo Island this week as part of a state-wide swing through the regions.

Mr Brock – who’s also Local Government Minister – said he’d been visiting regional centres since taking on his new role as a Cabinet Minister 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 see my role as bringing a regional focus to the Cabinet table in both my portfolios of Local Government Minister and Regional Development Minister.

“I’m passionate about the regions and equally as passionate about the role local government can play in achieving change in our local communities.

“I’m chairing a new high-powered Cabinet Committee with a specific focus on the regions which will oversee the \$39 million funding package I’ve secured for the regions to drive growth and improve infrastructure.

“This will include increasing the Regional Development Fund to \$15 million and a one-off \$10 million fund to drive regional jobs growth,” Mr Brock said.

Mr Brock will meet with fishing industry representatives and the Member for Finnis, Michael Pengilly in Kingscote this afternoon. He’ll also meet with the Chair and CEO of Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Damien Cook.

On Tuesday, he’ll hold meetings with Kangaroo Island Mayor, Jane Bates and CEO, Andrew Boardman, as well as representatives from the agriculture, wine and tourism industries. He’ll also inspect facilities at Southseas Abalone.

Mr Brock also plans to inspect two projects which received grants from the Regional Development Infrastructure Fund – a new storage facility at KI Pure Grain (\$620,000 grant) and the SeaLink ferry terminal development (\$1.2 million grant).

Mr Brock will also inspect the Kangaroo Island airport which the State Government has committed to contributing \$3.5 million next financial year towards an upgrade to allow direct flights from interstate and provide tourists with easier access to the Island.