

News Release **Minister Geoff Brock**

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Monday, 26 May 2014

Regional Development Minister visiting Upper Spencer Gulf and Mid North

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock is visiting the Upper Spencer Gulf and the Mid North this week.

Mr Brock – who’s also Local Government Minister – has been visiting the regions since taking on his 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’ve already heard the views of locals in several regional centres across the state, including Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Port Lincoln, the Riverland and Kangaroo Island.

“I’m chairing a new Regional 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 includes increasing the Regional Development Fund to \$15 million and a one-off \$10 million fund to drive regional jobs growth,” Mr Brock said.

In Whyalla tomorrow morning, Mr Brock will meet with local officials, including Mayor and RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Chair, Jim Pollock, Whyalla Council CEO, Peter Peppin, the CEO of RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, Dion Dorward, and the President of the Whyalla Chamber of Commerce, Ron Hay.

He’ll also visit local company, E and A Contractors, which received a \$2 million grant from the Enterprise Zone Fund Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback for a major upgrade to take advantage of opportunities in the mining, renewable energy and defence sectors.

In Whyalla, Mr Brock will also meet with the general manager of Arrium Mining and Minerals, Theuns Victor.

In Port Augusta, he’ll meet with local representatives including Mayor, Sam Johnson, City Manager, Greg Perkin, Business Port Augusta Chair, David Versteeg and the CEO of RDA Far North, Claire Wiseman.

Mr Brock will visit Civil Train which last year received a \$75,000 grant from the Enterprise Zone Fund Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback to provide training for a group of twelve women from communities in the north and far north.

He'll also inspect the Port Augusta Airport upgrade which received a \$428,750 grant from the same fund.

On Wednesday morning, Mr Brock will visit Quorn for a meeting with the Flinders Ranges Council and Jamestown to meet with the Northern Areas Council. He'll also be inspecting the Samex Abattoir facility at Peterborough.