

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Friday, 27 March, 2015

Joint agreement providing planning certainty for RDAs

The State Government and the State's seven Regional Development Australia associations have jointly agreed on a new three year funding agreement designed to drive economic development across South Australia.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said \$3 million in annual funding would continue to be provided to the RDA's over the next three years to support the State Government's efforts to grow stronger, sustainable and more competitive regions.

"The delivery of new jobs and new investment in regional South Australia are priority outcomes for projects supported through this ongoing three year funding," Mr Brock said.

"Final guidelines and a revised split of the annual funding have been determined after extensive consultation and agreement by the seven RDA boards across the State.

"This provides the RDA's with certainty in their ability to plan ahead over the next three years.

"RDAs have a local understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities for stimulating economic development in their regions and this funding will specifically focus on ensuring they each identify and drive priority activities to generate that activity.

"Our goal for the RDA's is for them to be a hub of planning, advice and support for driving their local regional economies.

"Collaboration and resource sharing between the RDA's and all their Federal, State and Local government funding partners means we can play to our strengths and achieve real progress for our regional communities," Mr Brock said.

Regional Development South Australia Chair, Rob Kerin said the RDA funding represented an important opportunity to support the State Government in its regional strategies.

"The collaboration framework in which we work opens the door to meaningful outcomes for regional South Australia.

"The support of the RDA Grant Fund over the next three years will ensure the RDAs' capacity to support local proponents, provide advice to State Government on strategic regional issues, and also further promote awareness of State, Local and Federal government initiatives and programs to the regions," Mr Kerin said.

The annual funding amounts over the next three years for each region agreed to by each RDA is:

- RDA Yorke and Mid North – \$475,000
- RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula – \$470,000
- RDA Murraylands and Riverland – \$450,000
- RDA Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island – \$425,000
- RDA Far North – \$400,000
- RDA Limestone Coast – \$400,000
- RDA Barossa – \$380,000

“State Government annual funding to the RDAs was increased by \$1.6 million to \$3 million a year following my agreement with the Premier in March last year,” Mr Brock said.