

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Thursday, 9 April, 2015

2015-16 Regional Development Fund programs announced

The next round of the State Government's enhanced \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund opens today.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the fund offered grants to boost investment in regional businesses and infrastructure to drive the creation of jobs and new opportunities for regional South Australia.

"The first round of grants under the RDF program in 2014-15 resulted in 43 projects across the State, representing a total investment of around \$340 million with a projected total of up to 685 jobs in regional South Australia," Mr Brock said.

"The enhanced fund, increased from \$1.6 million to \$15 million per annum through my agreement with the Premier, is helping to generate growth and increased productivity across the State," Mr Brock said.

"The success of South Australia's regions is fundamental to the success of the State," Mr Brock said.

"The creation of jobs, new opportunities and infrastructure development in regional South Australia created through these projects are driving economic growth, increasing exports and building community confidence across the State.

"This is, in turn, supporting South Australia to achieve its economic and social priorities," Mr Brock said.

In 2015-16 the RDF comprises two programs requiring **Expressions of Interest due by May 22:**

- The **Major Projects Program** for grants of between \$200,000 and \$2 million. This is aimed at supporting major economic projects, strengthening regional industries and assisting regional businesses take advantage of new opportunities.
- The **Community Infrastructure Program** for grants of between \$200,000 and \$1 million to support investment in regional communities to develop their economic infrastructure, and grow their capabilities as a foundation for future jobs and economic growth.

Projects must be located in areas defined by the State Government non-metropolitan regions boundaries as the Greater Adelaide Area and Country Regions.

The Major Projects Program only will also include the area defined as the McLaren Vale Character Preservation District by the Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012.

Mr Brock said he looked forward to seeing a range and diversity of regional projects which would contribute towards a vibrant and sustainable future for SA.

“The RDF grant program – managed through Regions SA – provides support to regional businesses and communities to pursue expansion, diversification, and innovation, as well as providing better infrastructure facilities and services across the State.”

Staff from PIRSA’s Regions SA division will be conducting information sessions in regional centres this month for those interested in applying for RDF grants.

For more information, including full guidelines and assessment criteria, visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/grants_and_loans