

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Thursday, 4 June, 2015

Strong Round 2 response to \$15 million Regional Development Fund

The second round of the \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund has attracted 88 'Expressions of Interest' from across the State.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said this followed an equally strong response to the Fund in its first year of operation.

"The Fund aims to boost economic growth and productivity in regional South Australia" Mr Brock said.

"The first round of grants has so far resulted in 41 projects across the State generating investment of more than \$337 million leading to the creation of a projected 665 jobs in the regions.

"This reflects what I see and hear when I travel throughout regional South Australia.

"People are optimistic, looking to invest in their businesses and build economic diversity and strength in their regions.

"The enhanced RDF – increased from \$1.6 million to \$15 million a year as part of my agreement with the Premier – is helping to generate growth, innovation and increased productivity across the State," Mr Brock said.

The Major Projects Program of the RDF is for grants of between \$200,000 and \$2 million to support major economic projects, strengthen regional industries and help regional businesses take advantage of new opportunities.

The Community Infrastructure Program is 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.

The third element of the RDF – the Country Cabinet Fund My Idea program – offers \$150,000 annually, \$50,000 for each area hosting a Country Cabinet meeting for community projects nominated by and voted on by the general public.

Round 2 'Expressions of Interest' include: 7 from the Adelaide Hills region; 16 from the Barossa, Light and Lower North; 8 from the Eyre and Western region; 19 from the Limestone Coast; 11 from the Murray Mallee; 12 from Yorke and the Mid North; 5 from the Far North; 4 from the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island and 6 from the McLaren Vale Character Preservation District.