

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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'Regions in Focus' roadshows begin in the Barossa

The first of a series of statewide 'Regions in Focus' roadshows over the next two months is being held in the Barossa this week.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said the roadshows will feature structured workshops with community and business leaders, Regional Development Australia Boards and local councils in each region.

"The focus of these workshops is on jobs, investment and economic diversity," Mr Brock said.

"Discussions will centre around collaboratively determining and refining each region's key priorities and identifying their alignment with the 10 Priorities in the State Government's Economic Plan.

"This is not an exercise in telling our regions what to do. It's about a partnership, building on the strengths of each region and assessing the best steps to take from here.

"It's also about the government supporting the optimism and innovation in our regions, drawing the threads together, and in collaboration creating an environment in which regional communities can genuinely grow and flourish.

"The results from those workshops follow on from the recent Regional Summit in Whyalla and will help identify how the government can help our regions achieve their development goals," Mr Brock said.

"I constantly travel around our regions, and I know what I hear and see....locals prepared to embrace change in a positive way, optimistic people prepared to make something happen, being prepared to use new and innovative approaches.

"We want these workshops to build on the important work already done and the new initiatives for the regions in last month's State Budget, totalling more than \$187 million over the next four years.

"The regions will also share in tax reductions of almost \$670 million over four years as a result of the State Government's tax reform package – with changes directly targeted at removing barriers to business investment and expansion for key regional industries.

"Regional South Australia will also benefit from the full package of State Government tax changes including abolishing stamp duty on non-residential property transfers, abolishing the Save the River Murray Levy and extending the payroll tax rebate for another 12 months.

“We’re all aware of the role our regions play in determining the strength of our economy,” Mr Brock said.

“Regional South Australia contributes about \$25 billion to the State's economy with just 29 per cent of the population.

“My focus is firmly on building stronger regional communities and improving their wellbeing.

“As Regional Development Minister, I see a significant part of my role as bringing people together to address their challenges and create positive benefits.....working with them to generate great ideas and creating an atmosphere and energy for change.

“It’s absolutely vital that our regions have people with the skills and knowledge to lead regional development because they understand better than anyone else what makes their communities such rewarding places in which to grow up, to live and work.

“I’m really keen for us to collectively look at ways we can accelerate change by identifying game-changing actions we can take together,” Mr Brock said.

The Barossa Roadshow is being held at the Novotel, Rowlands Flat, from 2-5pm on Wednesday July 8.