

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Thursday, 16 July, 2015

\$2 million for 57 regional youth local government traineeships

The State Government is establishing a new \$2 million program to help young people living in the regions to enter the workforce full time with a two year traineeship in local government.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the Regional Youth Traineeship Program offered \$14,500 a year to 57 regional governance bodies across the State towards the cost of provide entry level employment for a trainee for two years.

“This will include all regional councils, Aboriginal community councils and the Outback Communities Authority,” Mr Brock said.

“The traineeships are aimed at young people aged between 17 and 24 living in our regions who are unemployed or don’t have a full time job.

“Trainees will benefit from tailored training and work plans, so that when they’ve completed their two year traineeship they’ll be ready to take advantage of further employment opportunities.

“This program has also been designed to encourage councils to continue employing these trainees after those two funded years of training.

“The Local Government Association will deliver the program through the State Government’s \$10 million Jobs Accelerator Fund,” Mr Brock said.

Youth Minister Zoe Bettison said the trainee opportunities would be available in a range of employment skills, including areas such as admin services, IT, web development, accounting, horticulture, parks and gardens management and welding and mechanical services.

“The program will give young people in the regions the opportunity to enter the workforce fulltime, work in their areas of interest for two years and come out job-ready with a whole new range of new skills.”

Local Government Association President, Dave Burgess said the program represented a terrific opportunity for the regions.

“Early discussions with councils around the concept of a regional youth traineeship program indicated significant interest and enthusiasm to participate,” Mr Burgess said.

Mr Burgess said the program would benefit communities and regional councils across South Australia and Local Government was pleased to have been offered the opportunity to deliver this program on behalf of the State Government.

Mr Brock said the \$10 million Jobs Accelerator Fund was part of the \$39 million package secured for the regions in 2014-15 as part his agreement with the Premier.

“The package includes the enhanced \$15 million Regional Development Fund which has been heavily oversubscribed, so \$2.6 million has been diverted from the Jobs Accelerator Fund to partially meet the oversubscription.

“A \$4 million regional loans scheme has also been set up under the Jobs Accelerator Fund to complement the Regional Development Fund programs,” Mr Brock said.

“Another \$1.4 million is being used from the Jobs Accelerator Fund for new Indigenous economic development in the North-West Pastoral region.

“This program involves recruiting up to 14 Indigenous employees over two years to build a skilled team of workers able to take up opportunities in pastoral property development, grazing operations or other job opportunities in the region.

“Indigenous land owners currently hold up to three million hectares of pastoral land in the region, so there’s a real opportunity to return some of those properties to primary production to develop viable and sustainable grazing operations in the future and create job opportunities,” Mr Brock said.