

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Friday, 9 October, 2015

Awards celebrate regional excellence and success

The achievements of South Australia's regions are being celebrated through the 2015 South Australian Regional Awards being held across the State throughout October.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the awards were a great opportunity to recognise the spirit of innovation, hard work and community support that is thriving in the State's regional communities.

"The South Australian Regional Awards are an annual celebration of the rich and diverse individuals, groups and organisations that weave the economic and social fabric of the regions, making a substantial contribution to the State," Mr Brock said.

"The State Government – through Primary Industries and Regions SA – is again the Major Partner of this year's awards and is pleased to be able to play a role in celebrating the successes of the State's regions.

"Our regions are an integral part of the state's identity, contributing around \$25 billion to the State's economy and producing around half of our merchandise exports.

"When you realise this is achieved with just 29 per cent of our population you begin to understand both the remarkable achievement, and the quality of our output, to be in such demand locally, nationally and internationally," Mr Brock said.

"The South Australian Regional Awards truly bring to light the wealth of activity happening right across our State and the diversity and excellence created by our regional communities.

"I congratulate all nominees and finalists on their recognition in this year's awards."

"Brand South Australia, which manages the South Australian Regional Awards, received 2,160 nominations this year resulting in 602 entrants across the seven regions," Mr Brock said.

"The entrants reach across 13 categories, including the 'Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment – Wine' Award which is also sponsored by PIRSA.

"This award recognises wine companies leading the way in using their environmental credentials or sustainability practices to enhance the value of their products.

"Other categories celebrate success in small and large business, arts and creative industries, community contributions by groups and individuals, festivals and events, health, education and sport.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Department of State Development, recognises award winners who have received three or more Regional Awards over the award's history.

Presentation evenings are being held throughout October in the seven regions of Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, Far North, Barossa, Hills and Coasts, Murraylands and Riverland, Yorke and Mid North, and Limestone Coast.

They began on this week in Whyalla and conclude in Naracoorte on 28 October.