

# News releases - Geoff Brock

## ‘Regions in Focus’ roadshow returns to Far North

**Geoff Brock** July 13, 2016

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock is today meeting with leaders and interest groups in the Far North region, a year on from the ‘Regions in Focus’ roadshow where the top three regional development priorities were identified.

At last year’s roadshow, participants identified the priorities of digital connectivity and capability, tourism, and road transport as vital to the economic success of the Far North region.

Since then, the State Government has been working closely with the region, through Regional Development Australia Far North, to identify what initiatives are underway to address those priorities and where further work is needed.

Today that information is being presented to meeting participants in Port Augusta, along with a discussion on next steps of a continued focus and progress on the region’s priorities.

### **Background**

At the 2015 Regions in Focus roadshow, participants explored in detail the many priorities identified in the region’s existing economic development plan – the Regional Development Australia Far North ‘Roadmap’.

Participants were asked to identify the three key issues in their region where support from the State Government would be needed.

The 2016 series of statewide events is revisiting locations in each region, and re-convening the same groups of regional leaders and interest groups who participated in 2015. These invitation-only events are collaboratively hosted by Primary Industries and Regions SA and Regional Development Australia.

### **Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock**

Last year I committed to returning to each region to follow up from the 2015 ‘Regions in Focus’ roadshows. Where existing State Government initiatives have been identified, the government, through Regions SA and the RDAs, is working to ensure that these initiatives are communicated effectively and are fully benefiting regional communities.

Where more work needs to be done, the State Government and the RDA will continue to collaborate in identifying and pursuing those opportunities.

Participants here today are champions for their regions. They have the ability to influence and raise awareness in their own communities and beyond about the economic development opportunities available to them – and that’s what this process has been all about.

Collaboration between the State Government, Councils, the RDAs and local businesses is vital to enabling economic development and ensuring that regional communities can take advantage of what’s available.

