

News releases - Geoff Brock

State Government's \$105m commitment to the Regional Development Fund

Geoff Brock June 26, 2017

The State Budget reflects an overall ongoing State Government commitment to the Regional Development Fund (RDF) of \$105 million through until 2020/21.

The RDF continues to support projects and initiatives that build new infrastructure, drive economic growth, create new jobs and leverage public and private sector investment in our regions.

So far more than 90 projects under the RDF have created more than 2,000 jobs and supported more than \$900 million worth of economic activity in regional SA.

Background

Funding for the RDF was increased from \$1.6 million a year to \$15 million a year for four years in the 2015/16 State Budget.

Last year's Budget included a \$30 million commitment for two more years in the Forward Estimates to 2019/20.

This year's Budget has continued the annual \$15 million funding by a further year to 2020/21 in the Forward Estimates.

The initial \$60 million funding for the RDF was also boosted by \$6.4 million over two years in the 2015/16 Mid-Year Budget Review (MYBR).

The RDF grants program invests in diverse projects – from food and wine production and tourism to food processing, agricultural and engineering businesses.

Almost \$1 million from the Regional Development Fund is being provided towards South Australia's \$2 million co-contribution under Round 2 of the Australian Government's Mobile Black Spot Program.

Up to \$5 million from the RDF has been prioritised to specifically support projects which will create jobs and drive economic growth in the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback.

Other features of the 2017/18 State Budget include:

- \$1.2 billion is being spent on regional infrastructure across the State
- A new \$200 million Futures Fund to drive employment in key growth industries such as tourism, food and wine.
- Funding for several projects in Whyalla aimed at ensuring the longevity of the backbone of the nation's steel industry – Arrium Whyalla Steelworks.
- The introduction of an ongoing new payroll tax rate in 2017/18 to help ensure regional small businesses remain competitive interstate.

- More than \$12 million is being offered to 15 regional councils across the State under the State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership. 20% of the cost of eligible infrastructure projects is being funded under this scheme.
- Opportunities for regional communities to decide what they want to improve their towns and cities.
- Businesses employing a person as an apprentice or trainee will receive an extra \$5,000 in a measure to boost employment among young people.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

The ongoing commitment to the RDF is an investment in SA's future and supports the importance of our regions as an economic powerhouse for the State.

This continued support for the RDF which has raised confidence in the future of our regions has been strongly supported by local industry and commerce across the State.

I'm very pleased that the original four year increase in the RDF to \$60 million has been extended by a further \$45 million over three years in the State Budget Forward Estimates to 2020/21.

If you include the \$6.4 million additional RDF funding in the 2015/16 Mid Year Budget Review, that's an overall commitment to the RDF of \$111.4 million over a seven year period.

The impact of the RDF reaches across the State with direct and indirect job creation, increased economic activity, and greater investment bringing confidence and growth to local communities.

The Fund not only creates new regional jobs, but helps keep existing jobs in our regions as well as leveraging considerable private sector investment.