

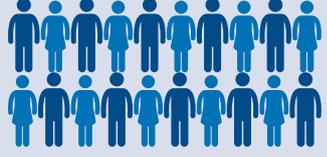
# REGIONS IN FOCUS

## Murray and Mallee

**8**  
councils

  
POPULATION  
**69,035**

**SIZE**  
**36,489**  
square kilometres

  
EMPLOYMENT  
**27,547**

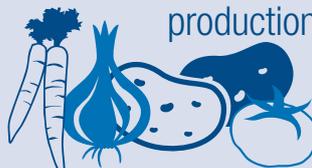
**\$3.52b**  
  
Gross  
Regional  
Product

**River  
Murray,  
Lakes &  
Coorong**

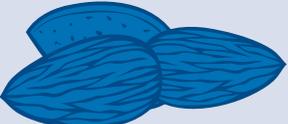
**1/5**  
of region's land mass  
used for cropping

**100%**   
of SA's  
oranges

of SA's PIG  
production  
**42%** 

**24%** SA's  
vegetable  
production  


**Grape  
and wine**  
**57%** of SA's annual  
grape harvest  
25% of Australia's  
annual grape crush

95% of SA's  
**almonds**  


**River  
Murray**  
Heart of the region

  
Leader in  
**water use  
efficiency**

**Strategic  
transport  
routes**  
– major  
interstate  
road and rail

**Berri  
Estates**   
LARGEST WINERY  
in southern hemisphere

This document is a contribution to the ongoing conversation on the opportunities and priorities of the Murray and Mallee region. It highlights the strengths of the region to inform people's thinking about the future, and outlines opportunities where we can all work together to grow the region's economy and make it an even better place to live, work and visit.

Statewide consultation informed the Regional Statement for South Australia, in which regional communities identified these key areas of particular importance to them:

- the need for real engagement with government and within communities to shape decisions
- resilient and diverse economies powered by innovation and by public and private investment
- training support and career pathways for young people
- proud, prosperous, safe and inclusive communities for all.

These are supported by the regional opportunities and priorities outlined on these pages, identified through collaborative planning at the local level. Together, these are the broad themes within which businesses, council and state government are working together to achieve regional and state priorities.

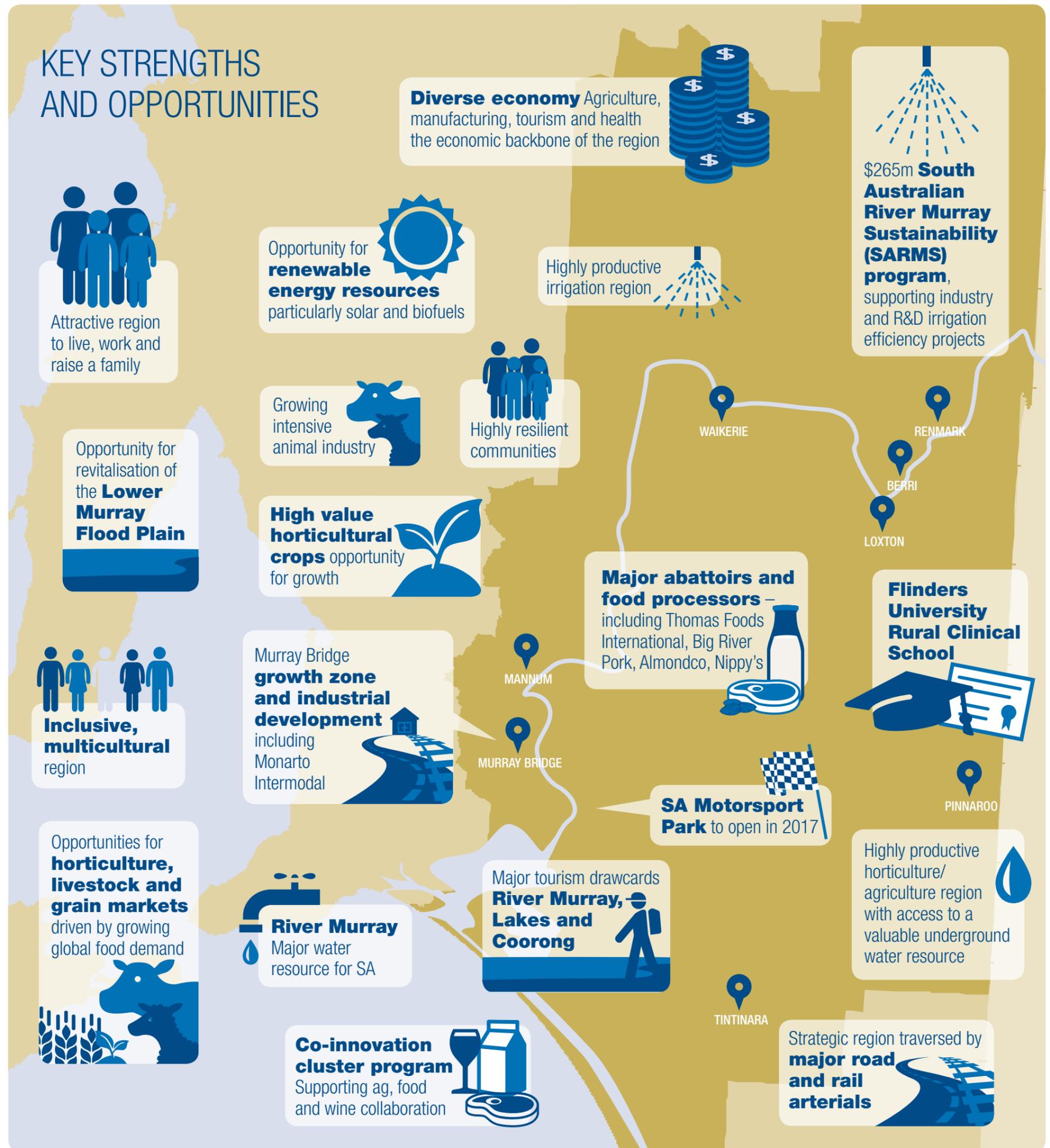
The Government of South Australia has an Economic Plan to drive the State's future prosperity and strength. It outlines ten economic priorities, and key for the Murray and Mallee are priorities one, two, five, six, seven, nine and ten (see below).

## ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

- 1 Unlocking the full potential of South Australia's resources, energy and renewable assets
- 2 Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world
- 3 A globally recognised leader in health research, ageing and related services and products
- 4 The Knowledge State – attracting a diverse student body and commercialising our research
- 5 South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers
- 6 Growth through innovation
- 7 South Australia – the best place to do business
- 8 Adelaide, the heart of the vibrant state
- 9 Promoting South Australia's international connections and engagement
- 10 South Australia's small businesses have access to capital and global markets

## REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- A strong economic base
- Regional infrastructure that facilitates growth
- A digitally skilled industry
- Strong stakeholder relationships
- A technology smart region
- Strong and prosperous regional industries
- Efficient and innovative water and environmental management systems
- A skilled and sustainable workforce that matches industry needs
- Increased choices in regional education
- Resilient communities that embrace and promote change



# REGIONS IN FOCUS

## Murray and Mallee

Many projects are already achieved or underway to help develop the region. These include State, Federal and Local Government projects, as well as many from the private sector, to grow prosperity and improve the quality of life of residents.

### Investing in the future prosperity of the Murray and Mallee

#### PRIVATE INVESTMENT

\$1.2 billion worth of investment in the Murray and Mallee is identified in the 2014-15 Major Projects Development Directory for projects with capital expenditure of more than \$1 million ([www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mdd](http://www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mdd)).

Examples of businesses investing in the region include:

##### **Thomas Foods International**

\$25m production capacity expansion – expected to increase production rates by over 25% and employ a further 200 people. The South Australia Government awarded \$2.5m for the upgrade through the Regional Development Fund.

##### **SA Motorsport Park**

Set to open in 2017, the \$40+m, 768 hectare Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend will provide a new V8 supercar track, hotel, caravan park, drift circuit, camping site and industrial precinct that will be one of the highlights of the national racing circuit. A combined \$16m of State and Australian Government funding has been committed to the project.

#### GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

##### **South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program (SARMS)**

\$265m program funded by the Australian Government and delivered by PIRSA, to build strong and sustainable irrigation communities, secure water resources and boost regional productivity along the River Murray. In addition to targeted grant programs, SARMS includes the \$7.5m redevelopment of the Loxton Research Centre.

##### **Regional development grants**

Over \$3.5m in regional development grants was awarded to Murray and Mallee businesses between 2010-11 and 2014-15. In addition to Thomas Foods International, this includes the expansion of the Australian Saltworks facility at Mulgundawa, a new free to range broiler chicken farm for Big Bird Investments at Paisley, a new active learning space for St Joseph's School Renmark, and the upgrade of multi-use courts as part of the Loxton Stadium redevelopment.

##### **Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund**

\$20m funding was awarded during 2010-14 to encourage investment

in existing businesses and assist the Riverland area diversify its economic base. Funded projects include establishing a distillery for Bickford's Australia; new pasteurisation equipment for Almondco; plant restructuring activities for Knispel Group (Nippy's); upgrades to the Renmark Club and Waikerie Hotel; and the relocation of Syntec Diamond Tools manufacturing facilities from China to Berri.

##### **National Almond Centre of Excellence**

To be established at the Loxton Research Centre to support almond research and the growth of almond production across the river communities of SA, Victoria and NSW, in conjunction with the Almond Board of Australia.

##### **Co-innovation cluster program**

Cluster projects within the region continue to be supported through this program. The Murraylands Food Alliance is one such example where major food producing and processing businesses have come together to map capability, form identity, build networks and collectively pursue opportunities for growth.

Current as at November 2015

Sources: Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland Regional Roadmap 2013-16. Population data: ABS, June 2014. All other data sourced from EconSearch 2015, Input-Output Tables for South Australia and its Regions 2013-14: RISE Models report produced for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet 2013-14.

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