



Regions to benefit from energy plan

Regional South Australia is set to reap the benefits of the State Government's new energy security plan

Premier Jay Weatherill announced the plan in March with Treasurer and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis.

The new energy plan is set to put downward pressure on power bills, create jobs, make electricity supplies more reliable and make South Australia a global leader in energy technology.

Mr Weatherill said it was time for South Australia to take the opportunity to be an international leader in energy policy.

"A country like ours, rich in resources, facing an energy crisis is a disgrace," Mr Weatherill said.

Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis said the plan would put control of the state's energy system back in South Australian hands.

"For too long South Australian households and businesses have been at the mercy of private companies seeking to maximize their profits and a national operator that manages our grid from Melbourne and Sydney," Mr Koutsantonis said.

The plan includes the establishment of a \$150 million Renewable Technology Fund (RTF), which will provide \$75 million in grants and \$75 million in loans to projects that make renewable energy available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to power the state when needed.

There are a number of large-scale projects under consideration in South Australia, including solar thermal, biomass, hydrogen energy and pumped hydro.

However, the first project to be funded under the RTF will be a grid-connected battery – the largest in Australia – to

provide the state with 100-150 megawatts of storage. The battery will modernise South Australia's energy grid and begin the transformation to the next generation of renewable energy storage technologies.

This project – and others that follow in its wake – will ensure that regional South Australian residents and businesses will have more reliable electricity supplies into the future.

The plan will also create more competition in the energy market and put downward pressure on electricity prices in South Australia, while new initiatives and projects will create new jobs.

The State Government's energy policies have already benefited regional South Australia; for example, the construction of wind farms at Brown Hill, Hallett Hill, North Brown Hill and Bluff Range created an average of 266 jobs during construction, with 36 permanent employees during operations.

Due to the lack of clear national policy settings, investment in new thermal generation has stalled. So, in addition to the RTF, the State Government will build its own gas-fired electricity generator.

The generator will provide up to 250 megawatts of generation, which can be switched on in times of emergency. At all times, the generator will make South Australia's electricity supplies more secure by offering the inertia that is needed to stabilise local supplies.

This generator is a strategic future asset to unlock economic growth once the appropriate national energy policy settings are implemented.

The State Government will also legislate to ensure that South Australian energy users are not held hostage to unwarranted market behaviour.

The Minister for Energy will be given strong new powers to direct the national market in the case of an electricity supply shortfall.

Ministerial direction includes the ability to direct generators to operate and direct the Australian Energy Market Operator to alter the flow on the interconnector. This will ensure every available option is activated to maintain the state's electricity supply in an emergency situation or when market forces fail. Drafting of new legislation will begin immediately.

The Minister's power will be used as a last resort measure if the national market does not act in South Australia's best interests.

For more information on the new energy plan, visit ourenergyplan.sa.gov.au



Minister's Message

With 2017 well underway, I'm proud to reflect on the positive impacts the government's regional development focus has had since I've been Regional Development Minister.

The Regional Development Fund (RDF) has supported regional projects across the state resulting in more than \$600 million in total project investment into regional South Australia - that means jobs. The first two funding rounds alone are estimated to have created over 2,000 jobs just in 2015-16, and contributed around \$930 million to the South Australian economy in the process. In August 2016 I announced that the RDF would be extended by another \$30 million, to continue driving regional growth and jobs. Some recent projects supported by RDF grants include a new cellar door and restaurant in McLaren Vale, a new mining operation in Coober Pedy (see page 3), and a new aged care facility in Berri (see page 11). These three projects alone will generate more than 300 jobs.

114 young people have begun their career journey supported by the Regional Youth Traineeship Program, designed to help young people living in the regions enter the workforce. The 2016 program was such a success that in 2017 we are repeating the \$2 million commitment that is boosting youth employment in regional communities. 57 trainees in each intake, across nearly 40 councils statewide, are undertaking a two-year full-time traineeship in local government—and at the end of it, they'll come out job-ready with a whole new range of skills.

I'm proud to see that the Country Cabinet meetings I established as part of my agreement with the Premier continue to be well received by the communities we've visited. They provide great opportunities for the Premier and Ministers to hear about regional challenges and opportunities. Fund My Idea for the Port Pirie, Yorke and Mid North Country Cabinet is seeking

your ideas in April, with voting in May – don't miss your chance to win funding for an idea that will support your community in the region. Put two more dates in your diary as opportunities to meet with leaders and hear new ideas for our regions: 22 May for the Regional Summit in Clare (see page 6) and 24-27 October for the SEGRA conference in the Upper Spencer Gulf (visit www.segra.com.au). I hope to see you there.

Geoff Brock
Minister for Regional Development

Changes to recreational fishing rules across the State

New recreational fishing rules, including changes to King George Whiting and 25 other species, came into effect on 1 December 2016.

The changes to legal limits and management arrangements followed extensive statewide community and industry consultation held in 2016.

Changes include:

- Reduced bag/boat limits for Garfish, Samsonfish, Western Blue Groper, large Yellowtail Kingfish, Australian Herring (Tommy Ruff), Scallops and Blue Swimmer Crab/Sand Crabs
- Increased size limits for Bream, Mulloway (marine waters) and Samsonfish
- Reduced bag/boat limit for Snapper in Spencer Gulf
- Increased bag/boat limit for Spangled Perch
- Introduction of recreational limits for Albacore, Whaler Sharks, Congolli, Bloodworms, Sea Urchin, Trevally, Wrasse and Harlequin Fish
- Introduction of a vehicle limit on Pipi and boat limits for Mulloway in the Coorong and Yabbies

- Simplified limits on Hyrtl's/Silver Tandan Catfish
- Removal of limits on Yellowfin Tuna and protection for Cooper Creek Catfish

New arrangements to improve the stock status of one of the State's most iconic and popular species, King George Whiting, were also introduced. The changes are:

- Reduced statewide daily bag limit to 10 and a boat limit to 30 (previously 12 and 36)
- Increased legal minimum size limit to 32 cm in all waters east of Cape Catastrophe on the tip of the Eyre Peninsula at 136 °E (previously 31 cm). West of this point, the size limit will remain at 30 cm.
- Introduction of a spatial spawning closure for King George Whiting from 1-31 May in an area of southern Spencer Gulf, southern Gulf St Vincent and Investigator Strait, to protect this key spawning area during a critical reproductive period. During the closure, the targeting, take and possession of King George Whiting by all fishing sectors, will be prohibited.

It is important that all fishers familiarise themselves with the new rules and play their part in protecting the health of our fish stocks.

These changes are vital measures to support the sustainability of our fish stocks, to allow for "a fair day's fishing" to maintain quality recreational fishing for future generations of South Australians and to ensure each fishing sector is operating within its allocated catch share for each key species.

For more information and details on all the new changes
www.pir.sa.gov.au/newrecfishrules



Regions SA news

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Cu-River Mining's Cairn Hill operation near Coober Pedy

Magnetite already seeing returns for Coober Pedy

61 ongoing full-time jobs will be created by a Regional Development Fund (RDF) grant in the state's Far North.

One of the immediate beneficiaries of the government's Magnetite Strategy is Cu-River Mining near Coober Pedy. A \$397,306 RDF grant will see the construction of a new mining and processing operation at Cairn Hill.

The grant – announced by Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock when visiting Coober Pedy as part of Country Cabinet – will support the infrastructure required for the operation, including the processing plant, road upgrades for heavy vehicle traffic, bores, water lines and electrical.

The project will create 61 ongoing jobs; another 20 will be created during construction.

The operation will focus on extracting and processing high-grade magnetite iron ore, which will also contain residual copper. The processed ore will be exported under agreement to China.

Cu-River Mining's Corporate Service Manager, Ning Liu, said economic development like the new operation was critical for the future of Coober Pedy.

"Our mining operation will assist in addressing challenges such as declining population and unemployment in the community," Mr Liu said.

"This infrastructure project will invest \$1.5 million into the region and we thank the State Government for its contribution through the RDF.

"We aim to employ locally where possible and are committed to providing local Indigenous people with long term sustainable employment opportunities."

The RDF drives economic growth through grants to boost investment in regional infrastructure and the creation of jobs in South Australia.

According to independent analysis, projects awarded grants through Rounds 1 and 2 of the RDF created over 2,000 regional jobs and contributed around \$930 million to the South Australian economy in 2015-16.

In the Far North, RDF projects from Rounds 1 and 2 created around 50 jobs and contributed around \$10 million to the economy in 2015-16.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the grant would have a significant, positive impact on the community and the state.

"Local employees will be preferentially sourced; however, there is potential for suitable candidates to relocate to local communities, which would bring additional economic benefit to the region," he said.

"The project will enhance the economic prosperity of Coober Pedy and improve the social wellbeing of the town and its surrounding areas."

Magnetite riches to create jobs and growth across SA

Iron ore is already one of South Australia's biggest exports – and it turns out we're sitting on another 14 billion mostly untapped tonnes.

The majority of iron ore resources in South Australia are in the form of magnetite – one of the most common ores.

The State Government is developing a Magnetite Strategy that aims to unlock the full potential of the 14 billion tonnes of magnetite iron ore resting under our state.

In May 2016, Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis convened the first Magnetite Strategy workshop to gauge support for the government's vision for the industry. The workshop was attended by representatives from the resources industry, the supply chain, local government and various sectors of state government.

In January 2017, the Minister released a directions paper "Developing South Australia's Magnetite Strategy", where he outlined the key findings from research into the comparative attributes of producing magnetite product, and an assessment of global demand trends.

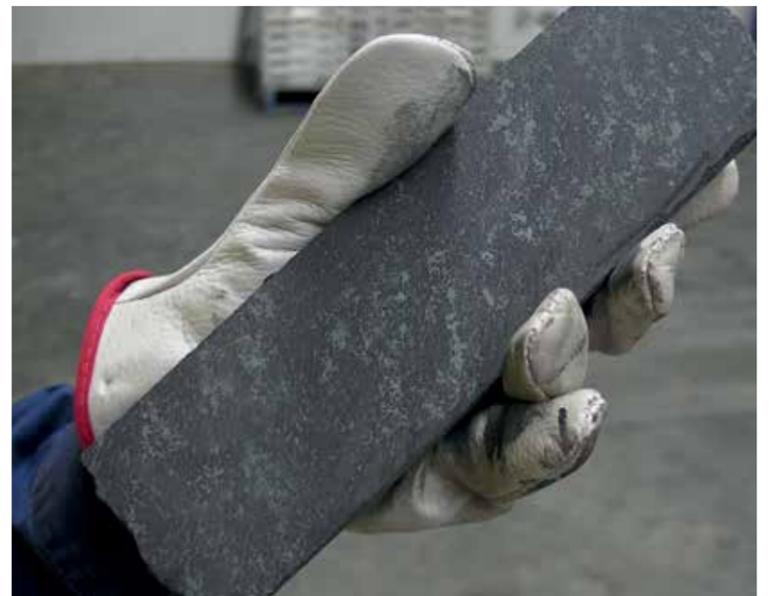
At present, South Australia mines around two million tonnes of magnetite each year from its current producers Arrium Limited at Whyalla and Cu-River Mining at Cairn Hill near Coober Pedy. The workshop

and research findings suggest the state could attract significant investment, build valuable infrastructure, and create jobs and economic opportunities by boosting production to 50 million tonnes of magnetite product for export by 2030.

To confirm the Magnetite Strategy, the government sought feedback on the directions paper from stakeholders and the broader South Australian community. The feedback period closed in March, and in April and May, the government will release and begin to implement the Magnetite Strategy to market South Australia as the global source of quality product.

The South Australian Magnetite Strategy aims to secure a further \$10 billion of committed investment by 2023 to create the jobs and business opportunities needed to ship 50 million tonnes a year of value-added magnetite to world markets.

Processed magnetite is a high-grade, clean and concentrated product – in steelmaking it creates 108kg less of CO2 emissions per tonne compared to the other most commonly mined iron ore (Haematite). In a carbon-constrained world, this will make South Australian magnetite products a desirable export.



Magnetite bar, image courtesy of the Magnetite Network (MagNet)

For more information on the strategy, visit http://minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/about_us/initiatives/magnetite_strategy

Loxton Research Centre opens

The redeveloped Loxton Research Centre was officially opened in the presence of 200 guests on 3 February 2017.

Opening of the new Loxton Research Centre (L-R) Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone, Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock, Member for Barker Tony Pasi MP, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Anne Ruston, Premier Jay Weatherill, District Council of Loxton Waikerie Mayor Leon Stasinowsky

The new state-of-the-art facility provides a hub for South Australia that brings together industry, research, education and government to drive collaboration and sustainable innovation for the benefit of agricultural communities locally, nationally and globally.

The redevelopment included the refurbishment of the existing Loxton Research Centre building and the addition of a new conference facility incorporating multi-function conference rooms, a demonstration kitchen and flexible working spaces.

South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill said the Loxton Research Centre has a strong and proud history of agricultural research and innovation that continues to benefit farmers across the globe.

South Australian Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock said it had been almost 12 months to the day that he had helped turn the first sod for the redevelopment.

"The centre was established in 1960 as the regional hub for the then Department of Agriculture to house the research, extension and biosecurity services for the region," Mr Weatherill said.

"Now, with its stunning design and modern technology, this world-class facility constructed by local builders will attract new business, research and investment into the region, and provide huge benefits for many years to come," Mr Brock said.

"This redevelopment will foster a new era of innovation and collaboration and grow our state's global reputation as a leader in sustainable agriculture and a producer of premium food and wine in a clean, green environment."

"It's a shining example of the vital role South Australia's regions are playing in economic growth and job creation."

The \$7.5 million redevelopment was funded by the Australian Government's \$265 million South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program (SARMS), which is delivered by the State Government through Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

A free community market was held on the Friday evening for the public to help celebrate the building's opening. The event featured stalls from local producers and tours of the redeveloped facility.

A reunion of previous staff and associates also took place as part of the opening.



Transforming the cellar door experience

South Australian wineries are set to raise the bar on their cellar door experiences, as forty-four wineries received grants under the 2016–17 round of the South Australian Wine Industry Development Scheme.

These projects were funded through the Cellar Door Grants Program. The scheme aims to increase visitor numbers and wine sales by diversifying the traditional cellar door experience, by adding an exclusive tasting room, bed and breakfast facility or educational program, for example.

Simon Cowham, Proprietor, Sons of Eden in the Barossa Valley and one of the Cellar Door Grant Program recipients, said the funded projects under the scheme are a sign of things to come with innovation in the wine industry.

"We received a \$25,000 grant under the first round of the scheme which we are using to convert a building on site into a high-end tasting facility with a view of the iconic Barossa Valley," Mr Cowham said.

"Our project meets the needs of our consumers who are seeking a high-value wine tasting experience at our cellar door.

"What our project does is add value to the wine, and sets it apart from other wine by including extra dimensions to the experience with new visual and audio components, giving consumers a greater understanding of the diversity of the Barossa wine region as well.

"For consumers, it's not about just coming to try the Shiraz anymore; it's a more intimate experience to better understand the wine and where it's made."

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell said the scheme will help ensure growth in the state's wine sector.

"Our government wants to help small wineries and larger businesses to be innovative and to invest in the upgrades to their cellar door so visitors receive a world-class experience at a Great Wine Capital winery," Mr Bignell said.

South Australia's wine revenue has made exceptional gains in 2015–16 – generating almost \$2.11 billion in revenue for the state, up almost \$330 million on the previous year.

Recent data also shows the state's visitor economy has grown by \$800 million to reach a massive \$6.2 billion – the highest on record.

The Cellar Door Grants Program recipients are scattered across the state including the Adelaide Hills, Barossa, Clare Valley, Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale, Padthaway, Mount Gambier, Robe and Southern Fleurieu.

In addition to the Cellar Door Grants Program, nine grape and wine industry associations – covering the Adelaide Hills, Barossa, Clare Valley, Langhorne Creek, Limestone Coast, Riverland, Kangaroo Island and Wrattobully regions – received funding totalling \$313,000 under the Regional Wine Industry Association Grant Program under the scheme, to develop regional wine tourism and visitor experiences.

Sons of Eden in the Barossa Valley



Haemodialysis closer to home at new Gawler unit

A new \$2.29 million dialysis unit at Gawler Hospital can treat 36 patients per week – locally.

Stockwell resident Peter Davey is one of eight people receiving haemodialysis treatment closer to home as the Gawler Dialysis Unit opens its doors today.

For Mr Davey, who needs three lifesaving dialysis sessions each week, having access to local services means he can spend more time at home.

“I have kidney failure, so each four-and-a-half hour dialysis session I have helps keep me alive,” Mr Davey said.

“I was previously receiving haemodialysis in Payneham, so I had to drive the hour and 20 minutes to get there, then spend nearly five hours in the chair getting my treatment before turning around and driving the hour and 20 minutes home again.

“By having my sessions closer by in Gawler, it makes a huge difference to my life.

“Not only am I saving more than six hours a week in travel, I’m also saving at least \$60 a week in fuel and I get to spend more time at home with my wife.”

The new \$2.29 million haemodialysis unit at the Gawler Health Service features nine chairs and will be able to treat up to 36 patients per week.

Gawler Health Service Clinical Services Co-ordinator Chris Kelly said 22 patients from the local area had already registered their interest to receive treatment at the unit.

“Haemodialysis is a critical treatment for patients with kidney failure who require therapy several times per week, for up to five hours each session,” Mr Kelly said.

“We’ll be initially holding morning sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, but have the capability to increase to two daily ‘shifts’ Monday to Saturday.

“Four of our Gawler Health Service staff have completed training in haemodialysis units across metropolitan Adelaide in preparation for the unit’s opening and we’ve also successfully recruited a number of experienced haemodialysis nurses.

“This team will make every effort to ensure patients are comfortable as possible during their treatment.”

The new \$2.29 million renal unit at Gawler Health Service was funded by the State Government.

There are now 12 haemodialysis units across country South Australia, with Gawler’s the second largest capacity regional site behind Port Augusta Hospital.



Gawler Hospital Registered Nurse Kath Hampel with Stockwell resident Peter Davey, who can now receive his lifesaving dialysis treatments closer to home thanks to the new Gawler Dialysis Unit, which opened its doors today. The \$2.29 million unit features nine dialysis chairs and will be able to treat up to 36 patients per week.

Southern Fleurieu Health Service redevelopment opens

The \$10 million Southern Fleurieu Health Service redevelopment was officially opened in February, providing even more services closer to home for locals.

The new health precinct brings the Southern Fleurieu Community Health, the South Coast District Hospital, Victor Harbor Private Hospital, radiology and pathology departments together under one roof.

The redevelopment includes a new therapy courtyard for children and people with disabilities, a rehabilitation gym, more specialist consultation rooms and an additional 50 car parking spaces.

The hospital is approaching its centenary; it opened in 1929. It has grown substantially since then, with a maternity wing being added in 1960, a training school in 1973 and a Rotary Club-funded helipad was constructed in 1986.

Opening the new redevelopment, Health Minister Jack Snelling said it would continue the hospital’s legacy of helping regional South Australians access state-of-the-art treatment.

“By bringing multiple health services under the one roof, this precinct will provide easier access to people from the Victor Harbor, Yankalilla and Alexandrina region,” he said.

“The new rehabilitation gym will be of particular benefit for those recovering from stroke or with heart disease to undertake rehabilitation closer to home, while a purpose-built children’s therapy area provides a welcoming and friendly environment for families.

“The provision of renal dialysis and chemotherapy has also made a big difference to patients, who can access these services closer to home, and reduce travelling.



Outpatients David Rumble, of Goolwa, and Suzanne Camac, of Victor Harbor, show Minister for Health Jack Snelling equipment at the new rehab centre.



South Australia's new fossil emblem Spriggina

New fossil emblem for South Australia

South Australia has the piping shrike, the Sturt's desert pea, the hairy-nosed wombat – and now it has Spriggina.

Spriggina – one of the first animals ever to exist on Earth – has just been selected as the state's new fossil emblem. The approximately 555 million year old fossil – which is only found in South Australia – best represents the state's globally recognized geological and scientific prowess.

The fossil was first discovered by a citizen scientist in South Australia's outback. It was selected as the state's fossil emblem through a two-month voting process, during which 3,571 South Australians had their say.

And they've received a vote of confidence in their selection from none other than leading naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.

On hearing of Spriggina's selection as the South Australian state fossil emblem, Sir David said that Spriggina, which appeared in his Life on Earth series, is a very fitting state fossil emblem for South Australia.

"Its head and segmented body suggest that it may well have had a rudimentary brain, making it, perhaps, the earliest evidence of intelligent life in the history of our planet," said Sir David.

Professor Jim Gehling, one of the world's leading Ediacara researchers, Senior Research Scientist at the South Australian Museum and recently

appointed Order of Australia, took Sir David to explore the Ediacara Hills in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia in 2009, and gave him a behind-the-scenes-tour of the South Australian Museum's Ediacara fossil collection in 2013.

"Since Sir David's first visit, the South Australian Museum's collection of Spriggina fossils has grown from just ten in 2011, to around 300 in 2017," said Professor Gehling.

"Scientists from around the globe visit the South Australian Museum so that they can access the Museum's Ediacara collection and research expertise," he said.

However, it wasn't always this way.

"When Dr Reg Sprigg AO, a young Mines Department geologist, made the first discovery of fossils in the Ediacara Hills of the Flinders Ranges, few geologists believed that he had found anything significant," said Professor Gehling.

"Most scientists thought that only organisms with hard parts, such as shells or skeletons, could be preserved in the fossil record.

"It took school teacher Hans Mincham (later, the first South Australian Museum Information Officer) and carpenter Ben Flounders to find the

first known Ediacara specimens of Spriggina, Parvancorina and Tribrachidium in the Ediacara Hills to make the global scientific community open their minds," said Prof Gehling.

Mr Flounders' daughter, Dianne Brewster said that Spriggina was discovered by chance on a warm day in the Flinders Ranges.

"Before it got too hot dad decided to go looking around a bit," said Mrs Brewster.

"As he was climbing a cliff area, the light came over a ridge to the east, causing the fossil to cast a shadow and catch dad's eye.

"He took a deep breath and got out his tools, then proceeded to chip slowly away," said Mrs Brewster.

Prof. Gehling said that this discovery, by a citizen scientist, marked a turning point in our understanding of early animal evolution.

"Reg Sprigg, Hans Mincham and Ben Flounders had undying curiosity about life on Earth," he said.

"Their passion has inspired new generations of scientists and the public to explore evolution, and unveiled South Australia as a treasure trove of ancient fossils that help us understand how life has evolved on Earth," said Prof. Gehling.



SAVE THE DATE: REGIONAL SUMMIT 2017

MONDAY 22 MAY

THE CHANGING NATURE OF WORK

Save Monday 22 May in your diary for the 2017 Regional Summit, where you will have the opportunity to hear about and discuss the changing nature of the workforce.

Regional employers and the state's universities will share case studies to illustrate strategies and success stories on the topics of apprentices, trainees and interns; industry engagement; and workforce issues affecting the regions.

For more information visit <http://www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/regionalsummit>

Monday 22 May

9.30am to 4.30pm, with drinks and networking to follow.

The Valleys Lifestyle Centre
180 Main North Road
Clare, South Australia



Tasting Australia to showcase our regions

Local residents and international visitors alike will taste the regions as part of the annual Tasting Australia food festival in May.

In 2017, there are more than 100 events across eight regions: Adelaide, Adelaide Hills, Barossa, Fleurieu Peninsula, Flinders Ranges and Outback, Murray River, Lakes and Coorong, Riverland and Yorke Peninsula.

Guests will also taste the Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and Clare Valley on their plates and in their glasses in Town Square – the free festival hub in Victoria Square, Adelaide – where every region in South Australia will have a presence.

The festival is committed to promoting the close proximity of South Australia's foodbowls and abundant regions to the CBD, along with the premium produce that has made the State nationally and internationally renowned.

In 2017, Tasting Australia has clustered events in regions, giving visitors from South Australia, interstate and overseas even more motivation to visit overnight or for a few days, to take in the sights of the state's regions while they are in the area.

The festival's creative director is Simon Bryant, famous for his work with Maggie Beer on ABC's *The Cook & The Chef* (Maggie is also a patron of Tasting Australia). He says it's a brilliant opportunity to sample the wonderful produce the regions have to offer.

"From Town Square in the city to South Australia's amazing regions, there are so many interesting food and beverage activities to enjoy during Tasting Australia," he said.

"You can really get involved: visit a farm gate, meet a producer, do a tasting with a winemaker or try a masterclass with one of our visiting chefs."

Visit tastingaustralia.com.au for more information or to book tickets.



Three Michelin star chef and MasterChef regular Marco Pierre White



Tour Down Under 2017: Stage 5, McLaren Vale to Willunga

2017 Tour Down Under dazzles

The world's best cyclists have shot through regional South Australia with dazzling speed.

Another incredible Santos Tour Down Under – South Australia's nineteenth so far – wound up in January. The absolute peak of cycling star power worldwide – including two-time World Champion Peter Sagan, Australia's Richie Porte and Colombian Esteban Chaves – helped attract thousands of spectators to our state from around Australia and the globe.

They came to see the cyclists but also took in the sights of regional South Australia, starting with a ride through the Adelaide Hills. The international athletes and their supporters also flocked to Lyndoch, Goolwa, Victor Harbor, Willunga, McLaren Vale and more.

Research on the economic impact of the race on the State and the regions won't be complete until later this year. However, in 2016 the event generated \$49 million for the State's visitor economy, attracting more than 700,000 spectators.

Tourism Minister Leon Bignell said that next year was the race's twentieth year – and the State Government is committed to making it bigger and better than ever.

"Throughout the event I received so much positive feedback from the crowds who love the TDU and how much the event has evolved," he said.

"The State Government – through Events South Australia and Race Director Mike Turtur – are constantly raising the bar, reinforcing the Santos Tour Down Under's position of the best UCI WorldTour event outside of Europe, and the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

"Next year we will take the race to new levels in terms of the festival of cycling that accompanies the tour. We will pay tribute to those who have played important roles in the history of this amazing race, which started back in 1999 after Gold Medallist Mike Turtur came up with the concept.

"The State Government is also committed to developing women's cycling and I am delighted the return of the Santos Women's Tour continued to receive such huge support from race-goers. Our government wants the women's race to be as big as the men's Santos Tour Down Under."

New Sterile Insect Technology Centre to take on fruit flies

Fruit flies are the world's worst fruit pest, destroying fruit and vegetables in commercial crops and home gardens. But an innovative new facility is ready to take them on.

South Australia's world-leading \$3.8 million Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) Centre in Port Augusta is now open.

The facility is able to produce 50 million sterile male Queensland fruit flies every week. The flies will be released to mate with females, collapsing wild populations in fruit fly affected horticulture growing regions.

The facility is the latest weapon in the state's arsenal against the fruit fly. South Australia is the only mainland state to be declared fruit fly free, with the State Government committing around \$5 million each year to fight the threat of fruit fly.

The state's fruit fly free status is vitally important to South Australia's reputation for premium food and wine produced from our clean environment and exported to the world.

The new SIT Centre is supported by SITplus, a national research and development effort led by Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) in partnership with Primary Industries and Regions SA, CSIRO and other state and national bodies.

According to HIA chair Selwyn Snell, the facility is cutting edge.

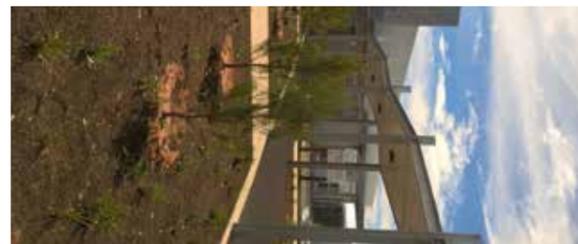
"In the development of this vital centre, our researchers travelled to Austria, Spain, Israel, Guatemala, Mexico and the USA to investigate similar, leading operations. This facility

combines all the best aspects of that research, making it one of the most progressive and advanced in the world," he said.

"The \$45 million SITplus initiative complements this state-of-the-art facility with leading-edge fly production and release technology development.

"Queensland fruit fly is one of the leading pests which plagues the Australian horticulture industry. Each year, the pest is estimated to cost the industry more than \$300 million in lost markets and through damaged produce both pre-and post-harvest."

Mr Snell said the facility's opening was not only a win for the nation's horticulture industry, but also for consumers who stand to benefit from increased quality produce at markets and on shop shelves.



STEM Works a boon for regional students

Schools outside Adelaide will receive \$106.5 million in facilities upgrades to teach students a range of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Around 24,800 students in 48 schools will benefit from the STEM Works program, which is part of a \$500 million commitment in the 2016-17 State Budget to modernise learning facilities in public and non-government schools.

The STEM Works program is focussed on giving students every opportunity to claim the jobs of the future, including in advanced manufacturing and defence. Construction on STEM Works programs is also being fast-tracked to help stimulate the state's economy and create local jobs.

Currently, concept plans for the design and look of each of the 48 participating schools is either complete or nearing completion.

STEM subjects look different across every class at every school, but students learning STEM could be engaged in coding, robotics, agriscience, or designing and building windmills, solar cars and water sampling technologies.

They could also be engaged in larger projects, like partnering with local industries, or working on the Engineers Without Borders project, which designs and develops solutions for humanitarian problems like solar cookers, water filtration systems and solar lighting.

Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close said it was essential that students are engaged and excited to learn about STEM, and the STEM Works program was a great step forward in achieving that.

"Adopting a STEM focus is giving South Australian children the best chance to develop skills in technology related fields, so they are well equipped to claim the jobs of the future," Dr Close said.

Schools from outside the metropolitan area within the STEM Works program:

Adelaide Hills

- Aldgate Primary School
- Birdwood High School
- Heathfield High School
- Mount Barker High School
- Mount Barker Primary School

Barossa

- Freeling Primary School
- Gawler and District College B-12
- Nuriootpa High School
- Nuriootpa Primary School
- Roseworthy Primary School
- Tanunda Primary School
- Two Wells Primary School

Eyre and Western

- Ceduna Area School
- Cummins Area School
- Hincks Avenue Primary School
- Long Street Primary School
- Nicolson Avenue Primary School
- Port Lincoln High School
- Whyalla Town Primary School

Far North

- Port Augusta Secondary School
- Roxby Downs Area School

Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island

- Kangaroo Island Community Education
- Mount Compass Area School
- Victor Harbor High School

Limestone Coast

- Bordertown High School
- Grant High School
- Keith Area School
- Kingston Community School
- Millicent High School
- Millicent North Primary School
- Mount Gambier High School
- Mount Gambier North Primary School
- Naracoorte High School
- Naracoorte Primary School

Murray and Mallee

- Berri Primary School
- Glossop High School
- Loxton High School
- Mannum Community College
- Murray Bridge High School
- Murray Bridge North School
- Renmark High School
- Waikerie High School

Yorke and Mid North

- Balaklava High School
- Clare High School
- John Pirie Secondary School
- Kadina Memorial School
- Moonta Area School
- Port Pirie West Primary School



Dairy farm business planning program adopted by industry

More of South Australia's dairy farming families will benefit from second stage rollout of a farm business planning program supported by industry and state government.

Since its inception in 2015, the Farm Business Strategic Review program has helped participants expand production and plan for \$3.65 million in new on-farm investment.

The state government provided \$300,000 to fund the original pilot program, with 30 dairy farming families participating in the program in 2016.

Following its success the program has now been endorsed by the dairy industry for the rollout. South Australia's peak dairy associations, DairySA and the SA Dairy Farmers Association, through its Industry Fund, will contribute a combined \$90,000 towards a second stage of the program to be delivered by agribusiness service provider Rural Business Support.

Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell said the state government, through Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), would also contribute \$30,000 to the second stage of the program.

"A number of the participating dairy farming families have indicated that they intend to invest a total of \$3.65 million into their own businesses between 2016–17 and 2020–21 – money they said would not have otherwise been invested if they had not undertaken the program," Mr Bignell said.

"That's a great endorsement and it shows how important it is that each dairy business has a full understanding of its business objectives, model and current and planned financial position."

Rural Business Support Chief Executive Brett Smith said the skills being built with this program would allow farmers to plot a path forward and build a business that is stronger and more resilient.

"This program is a combination of group activity and work at the kitchen table. A key part of

the program is showing families how banks think about business, and how these tools will support effective negotiation with banks.

"The results have been so good that we're also in discussions to repeat the pilot with other agriculture sectors in South Australia and nationally, including grains, livestock, wool, pork, viticulture and horticulture."

For more information go to ruralbusinesssupport.org.au or call Rural Business Support on 08 8364 2577 or email executiveassistant@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au.



Building momentum on improving transport for primary industries

A second 90 Day project to improve road transport efficiency for South Australia's primary industries is set to begin.

The first 90 Day Change @ SA Improving Road Transport for the Agriculture Industry Project, now known as Project 1, has been referenced as one of the best examples of collaboration between government and industry.

Project 2 builds on the success and momentum of the outcomes of the first 90 Day Project, for which industry has estimated the project reforms for primary producers and transport operators to date to be at least \$56 million.

In most regional areas, road transport is the only means of delivering goods to market and is vital for economic competitiveness.

50 issues identified from Project 1 have been implemented, including road train access to Roseworthy Viterra, road train and B double access to the Jamestown saleyards and permits to allow movement of oversize or overmass agricultural machinery at night.

Now is the time for stakeholders to have their say on more improvements as part of the survey for Project 2, which will involve other industry sectors that may not have participated in the first project.

Primary Producers SA Chair Rob Kerin said the project has made road transport simpler, safer and less costly for the users of heavy mass vehicles and routes across South Australia.

"Project 2 opens the door for additional industry sectors to be involved in this project, such as forestry, and fisheries and aquaculture," Mr Kerin said.

"It also gives those who may have missed out on participating in the first survey a chance to give their views on transport issues.

"The survey will gather fresh new ideas for enhancements that will benefit the agricultural road transport industry."

The project is a collaboration between Primary Industries and Regions SA, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Primary Producers SA.

Anyone can participate in the survey, which closes 15 May 2017, and is available along with the Project 1 Status Update Report, at www.pir.sa.gov.au/agtransport



Jobs from milk powder in the Limestone Coast

A new \$65 million processing plant in the Limestone Coast is set to start exporting milk powder to China as part of a two-stage expansion – creating local jobs and helping to build the region’s economic future.

Blue Lake Dairy Group’s (BLDG) processing plant in Tantanoola was officially opened by Premier Jay Weatherill last month, marking the first milestone in the expansion planned by the Chinese-owned company.

Stage one of the project will enable the production of 20,000 tonnes of infant and specialty milk formula, while stage two is expected to involve a new \$50 million milk drying facility turning milk into powder.

The expansion is expected to create 150 jobs.

Once the project reaches stage two, the facility will require about 130 million litres of milk a year – more than a quarter of what is produced across South Australia – to produce 30,000 tonnes of milk formula annually – the supply of milk will come from local farms.

The specialty milk formulas will be exported to China.

Premier Jay Weatherill applauded BLDG for its decision to invest in South Australia’s South East.

“It’s a decision that is expected to provide significant benefit to the economy of Millicent, Tantanoola and surrounding districts,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The company’s investment demonstrates that South Australia’s regions have an abundance of unique, premium products and many opportunities for foreign investment, which creates local jobs.

“This is particularly the case in the South East, which continues to play a big role in driving our state’s economy, contributing \$3.6 billion in gross regional product in industries such as forestry, beef and dairy cattle, lucerne seed production and rock lobsters.”

Investment Attraction South Australia (IASA) helped Blue Lake Dairy Group through each critical stage of the development.

Mr Xin Xiang Wang, Managing Director, Blue Lake Dairy Group, said the Group appreciated the assistance of the State Government in providing guidance for the new facility.

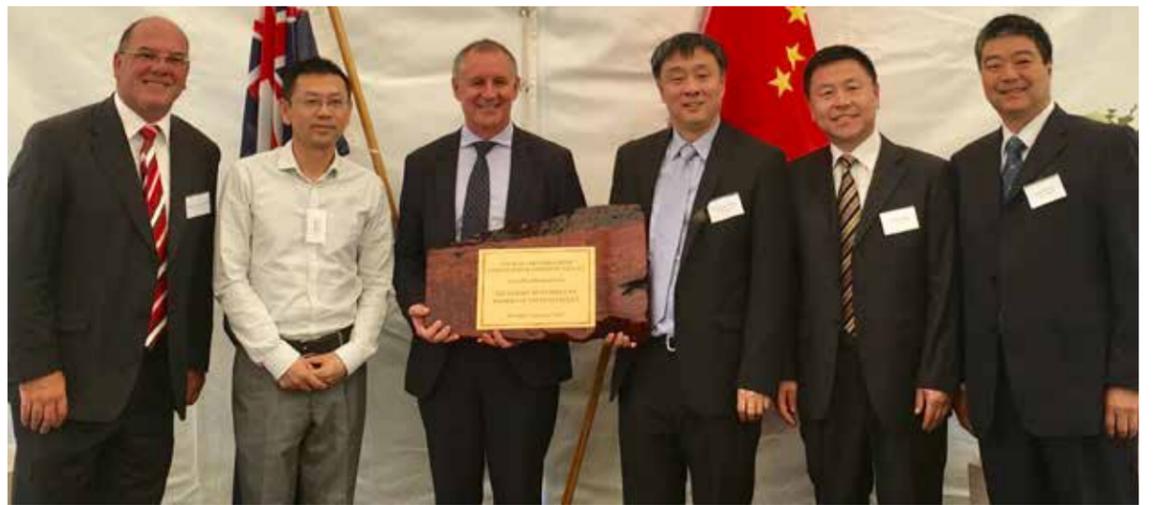
“The BLDG is looking forward to continuing its investment in South Australia and in its milk processing facility, with the approval process for stage 2 of the BLDG project, a new milk drying facility, expected to commence in coming months,” Mr Xin said.

“We thank Premier Weatherill for his support for our project and for officially opening our new powdered milk processing facility.”

Blue Lake Dairy Group was formed in 2015 by Chinese investors.

Dairy farmers across South Australia produced almost 550 million litres of milk in 2015–16, generating \$937 million in revenue.

L-R: Mayor of Wattle Range Council Peter Gandolfi, BLDG Marketing Director Jian (Jack) Ma, Premier of South Australia Jay Weatherill, BLDG Managing Director Xin Xiang Wang, BLDG shareholder Yuhui Wang and BLDG Operation Director Guang (Ryan) Zhang



Seppeltsfield’s Warren Randall accepts the Global Best of Wine Tourism award at the 2017 Great Wine Capitals awards in Porto, Portugal.

Big wins for South Australian wine on the world stage

Hot on the heels of Adelaide joining the ranks of the Great Wine Capitals (GWC), Seppeltsfield has won the prestigious title of Best Wine Tourism Service at the GWC event in Portugal.

In March 2016, Adelaide was invited to join the global network, which includes San Francisco/Napa Valley (US), Bordeaux (France), Bilbao/Rioja (Spain), Cape Town (South Africa), Mainz/Rheinhessen (Germany), Mendoza (Argentina), Porto (Portugal) and Valparaiso/Casablanca Valley (Chile).

The Barossa winery was recognised as a global leader in its field by an international panel of wine tourism professionals.

The award ceremony, held in Porto, was followed by the announcement that Adelaide has won its bid to host the 2018 GWC annual general meeting and industry conference. The event will attract wine, food and tourism leaders to South Australia.

Seppeltsfield Managing Director Warren Randall said the award was a coup for the winery, the region and wider South Australia.

“This award comes fittingly in the month we celebrated the third anniversary of The Jam Factory’s

arrival at the Seppeltsfield estate – the real game changer to our art tourism and significant to the rebirth of our home as a multi-layered ‘village,’” he said.

“This award signals a completed transition of Seppeltsfield from a staid – albeit it historic - wine property, to a dynamic and multi-experiential destination, where wine, regional food and art are equally celebrated and promoted.

“The Barossa and South Australia can be proud of a now internationally-benchmarked tourism asset. It’s now time to promote this achievement and capitalise on any visitation potential!”

The state’s double win was topped off with an invitation to attend the Mainz Wine Festival in Germany in August this year. The event is expected to attract more than 500,000 visitors, providing yet another platform to further promote SA’s premium wine to the world.

RDF a capital boost for small businesses

Grants awarded under the Regional Development Fund are creating jobs in many regional small businesses.

Almost 450 ongoing jobs are being created by Regional Development Fund (RDF) grants awarded in the Round 3 (2016–17) period.

The RDF grants are proving a huge gain for small and medium businesses in the regions. Providing an injection of capital allows them to expand their operations and take on new regional employees.

One such business is Solar Eggs located at Sandy Creek in the Barossa Valley.

Solar Eggs received a \$400,000 grant to increase local free range egg production and establish a new tourism offering in the region. Five of its free range sheds and runs at the farm will be upgraded with the latest in design innovation.

The \$2.15 million upgrade will also feature a new farm shop and a café from which local produce will be served. Farm tours will also be conducted as a unique new tourism attraction. The upgrade is expected to create 12 ongoing fulltime jobs.

Solar Eggs Managing Director Jonathan Attard said the expansion would double the farm's production.

"By increasing our production and capturing more of the market share, we can replace eggs brought into South Australia from interstate," he said.

Other beneficiaries in Round 3 include Australian Grain Export (\$300,000, six jobs), P&L Rogers

Mushrooms (\$220,000, five jobs), Mitolo Wines (\$557,418, 21 jobs), Premium Adelaide Hills Beverage Experience (\$950,000, 35 jobs), Prime Valley Pastoral (\$650,000, 35 jobs), Gambier Earth Movers (\$438,820, five jobs), Pikes Wines (\$320,000, eight jobs) and Chat Hill (\$360,000, five jobs).

The 2016–17 period builds on previous rounds; overall the RDF is creating more than 1,300 ongoing jobs, in addition to more than 1,400 construction jobs.



Solar Eggs' Barossa Valley farm



\$10,000 job accelerator grants available

Regional businesses are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$10,000, available to eligible businesses for each new worker employed above current staff numbers.

The State Government's Job Accelerator Grant scheme has already helped create more than 4,600 new jobs in the past six months. The \$109 million scheme is expected to deliver about 14,000 jobs over two years.

Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis said he wanted to see the scheme go even further.

"I want as many businesses to know about these grants as possible. If these grants end up being oversubscribed and costing the Budget more than \$109 million, I'll be very happy because that will mean more jobs for South Australians," he said.

"Businesses are telling us they are taking on more new staff than they otherwise would have because of the grants and that is a big incentive now to keep employees on after major projects because the grants are paid on the first and second anniversary dates of employment."

The Job Accelerator Grant comprises two streams:

Job Creation Grant

The \$10,000 Job Creation Grant applies to businesses liable for payroll tax in South Australia with total taxable Australian wages of no more than \$5 million in the financial year immediately prior to claiming the grant. The grant is paid in two \$5,000 instalments on each anniversary of the increase in employment level.

The grant is paid on a pro rata basis if the hours worked by new staff is less than 35 hours per week.

Small Business and Start-ups Grant

The \$4,000 Small Business and Start-ups Grant is paid in two \$2,000 instalments on each anniversary of the increase in employment. The grant applies to eligible businesses not liable for payroll tax during the relevant employment period of the new staff member, including due to their total payroll falling below the tax-free threshold of \$600,000.

For more information or to register your business for the scheme, visit www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/grants-and-concessions/jobacceleratorgrantscheme

Biting into the apple spirit market

The Hills Cider Company is set to embark on the next step of their journey, which involves the development of an apple spirit from cider pulp waste.

The State Government, through Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), provided the company with a \$45,000 grant, under Round 3 of the Advanced Food Manufacturing (AFM) Grants Program, to undertake the project.

The company, established in 2010, sources apples and pears grown in the Adelaide Hills for its cider, supporting local producers in the region.

The Hills Cider Company is currently building a new production facility, cellar door and visitor experience as part of the Premium Adelaide Hills Beverage Experience collaboration in Nairne, due to open later this year and supported by a Regional Development Fund grant.

Director Steve Dorman said the AFM grant program has presented a great opportunity for the company to explore the development of a value-added food product that is produced from a common industry waste stream.

"When we crush the apples to make our cider, we leave behind an apple pulp," Mr Dorman said.

"What we're aiming to do is use this leftover pulp to create a premium apple spirit, which will be a value-added product that fills a gap in the spirits market in Australia. It will have fantastic potential in overseas markets, particularly as we are known for growing high quality, safe produce in South Australia."

As part of the grant program, the company will partner with the University of Adelaide to help develop the apple spirit.

"We are really excited about working with the University of Adelaide which has a huge amount of expertise that will help our business

to optimise our production system, and we are already working with the University and other commercial partners to identify future value-adding opportunities beyond this project," Mr Dorman said.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell said South Australia has a global reputation for producing world-leading food and beverage products.

"The Advanced Food Manufacturing Grants Program has helped food businesses to grow their capabilities and become more competitive on the global stage," Mr Bignell said.

The program is an initiative of the SA Food Innovation Centre and is helping to link businesses to technical expertise in order to rapidly innovate, add value and differentiate their products and production processes.

The other recipients of Round 3 of the Advanced Food Manufacturing Grants Program, in which the State Government partnered with Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL) and the South Australian Food Innovation Centre to fund projects, are the Abalone Industry Association of SA Inc, Barossa Valley Brewing, Barossa Valley Cheese Company, Buzz Honey, Riviera Bakery and Woodside Cheese Wrights.

Hills Cider Company director Steve Dorman testing his product



George the Farmer co-creator wins the 2017 SA Rural Women's Award

Simone Kain's passion for teaching children about where their food comes from has helped her win the 2017 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Award.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell presented the Penola resident – co-creator of children's character George the Farmer – with the award at a ceremony in Adelaide in February.

As this year's State winner, Simone receives a \$10,000 bursary to pursue her nominated project, and will be able to take part in leadership development opportunities.

She will use the bursary to develop two educational children's resources, aimed at teaching young people about the role women play in Australian agriculture and showcasing the range of careers available in primary industries.

Simone hails from a farming background and is dedicated to raising the profile of Australian farmers, particularly through children's education.

She is the co-creator of the award-winning George the Farmer social enterprise. George is a children's character who teaches youngsters about farming and food through apps, books and songs.

Minister Bignell lauded Ms Kain for working to educate future generations of Australian producers.

"I'm thrilled Simone has been recognised with this award," he said.

"Through her winning project Simone will not only be helping children learn about the opportunities

available to primary producers, she'll also be teaching them about the important role women have played in shaping Australia's agricultural landscape.

"I also congratulate this year's finalists, Louise Flohr from Lameroo and Bridget Ransome from Mt Barker, who also demonstrated great leadership potential and a commitment to their industries and to rural South Australia.

"Women who take part in this award receive greater confidence, networking opportunities and leadership skills that help them positively contribute to primary industries and rural Australia."

The RIRDC Rural Women's Award recognises emerging women leaders who have the desire, commitment and leadership potential to make a greater contribution to primary industries and rural communities.

The award is open to all women involved in primary industries and/or rural Australia.

Simone will represent South Australia at the national Rural Women's Award in Canberra later this year.

The State Government through Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) supports the RIRDC Rural Women's Award.

For more information about the award, visit <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/rural-women's-award>



Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Leon Bignell, award winner Simone Kain, finalist Louise Flohr, RIRDC Managing Director John Harvey



PIRSA Executive Director (Agriculture, Food & Wine) Jo Collins, award winner Simone Kain, PIRSA Chief Executive Scott Ashby