



Jobs flow in the north

Major infrastructure projects in South Australia's north are expected to create major jobs for regional communities.

More than a thousand jobs are anticipated through a number of projects, including the Jamestown Tesla battery, Port Augusta solar thermal plant, Carrapateena copper mine and the Whyalla steelworks sale.

Construction of the \$650 million, 150MW SolarReserve solar thermal plant is expected to begin in Port Augusta in 2018.

The plant, named Aurora, uses thousands of mirrors (called heliostats) to reflect and concentrate sunlight onto a central receiver at the top of a tower. The process heats molten salt, pumped at the top of the tower and flowing through the receiver, to 565 degrees Celsius.

The molten salt provides a stored heat source that is used to drive a steam turbine and create electricity. The heat of the salt means that the facility can generate power at full load for up to eight hours after sunset.

The project will deliver about 700 jobs in the Port Augusta region and support additional jobs in the longer term.

The energy grid will be supported by a 100MW Tesla lithium battery – the largest grid-connected battery in the world.

The battery will operate at all times, providing stability services for renewable energy, and will provide back-up power in case of a blackout.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk made the announcement in Adelaide alongside Premier Jay Weatherill, additionally promising that it would be ready in 100 days of the grid interconnection agreement being signed – in time for summer – or it would be free.

The battery's construction will be supported by South Australian-based Consolidated Power Projects, with about 50 South Australian workers employed on the project.

Meanwhile, a new chapter has dawned for the people of Whyalla with the official handover of the steelworks and mine to new owner GFG Alliance.

It brings to an end 16 months of uncertainty for workers, their families, supply chain businesses and the broader Whyalla community.

GFG Alliance executive chairman Sanjeev Gupta has said the company will make major capital investments in its Whyalla operations.

The State Government has also committed \$50 million to be invested in Whyalla's steelmaking capacity to help ensure the long-term security of thousands of local steelmaking and mining jobs, and is in discussion with GFG about the nature of that investment.

More than a thousand new jobs will also be created through South Australian-based OZ Minerals' decision to invest \$916 million Carrapateena, Australia's largest undeveloped copper project (see story on page 3).



Minister's Message

As 2017 draws to a close, we can step back and take stock of what has been achieved in our regions this year.

Business confidence in South Australia is booming, particularly in the state's regional areas. GFG Alliance's purchase of the steelworks and mine at Whyalla is complete, bringing to an end 16 months' anxious wait for one of South Australia's biggest towns. The state government is going to be working with GFG Alliance as it implements plans to expand the operation.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk was in Adelaide to announce that the biggest grid-connected lithium battery in the world will be built right here in South Australia. The battery is a major part of the South Australian Government's Energy Plan, and so is the 150MW solar thermal facility in Port Augusta.

More than a thousand jobs will be created as OZ Minerals proceeds with the Carrapateena

mine – the largest undeveloped copper site in Australia. Seven hundred more jobs will be created with the new Port Augusta solar thermal plant construction.

And one of the largest horticulture businesses in the country, Costa, is investing heavily in South Australia, with a \$60 million upgrade to its Monarto mushroom facility, supported by a \$1.8 million state government grant.

Smaller businesses are also booming, with the SA Government's new payroll tax cut and Job Accelerator Grants for small and medium businesses creating more jobs across our regions. Meanwhile, our reputation as a world leader in premium food and wine is reaping rewards, with South Australian producers becoming big names on the world stage.

But all of this success begins with people. And people are who we want to invest in, through initiatives like the Regional Youth Traineeship

Program, an initiative through which 114 young people have already begun their career journey. The program is designed to help young people living in the regions to enter the workforce. Two of our trainees have already been nominated for the prestigious South Australian Trainee of the Year Award, with one of them taking home this year's award.

I am proud to serve the people of South Australia, and the regions of South Australia as Regional Development Minister, and I'm proud of the amazing things that are achieved in our regions through our enterprising businesses every day.

Geoff Brock
Minister for Regional Development

JOBEX is coming

South Australia's largest employment expo will focus on jobs in emerging industries

Taking place in Port Augusta on 20 November and Murray Bridge on 23 November, following a two-day event in Adelaide, JOBEX will encourage attendees to explore education and training options and new career pathways.

As the state's traditional manufacturing industries wind down, job opportunities are growing in the sectors of defence and ship building, health and research, IT and hi-tech, energy and mining, and tourism, food and wine.

JOBEX will connect thousands of job seekers, graduates and students with some of South Australia's biggest employers and industry leaders.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the State Government is partnering with established and expanding businesses to stimulate employment and offer the jobs of the future.

"As the state's economy transitions, we want to make sure South Australians have every chance to benefit," he said.

JOBEX supports other State Government initiatives aimed at creating South Australian jobs including the expanded Job Accelerator Grant and cutting payroll tax for small businesses.

Entry to the expo and speaker sessions is free but people need to register at www.JOBEX.sa.gov.au



SEGRA: Speaking up for Regional Australia

For the first time in its 21-year history the Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) conference will be held in the Upper Spencer Gulf of South Australia.

From 24–27 October, Port Augusta and the Upper Spencer Gulf area will host SEGRA 2017, a forum for people passionate about the future of regional Australia and a place where new ideas can be formed and shared.

The recent major achievements in the region will provide an excellent canvas on which to consider the theme of disruption and strategies for creating change.

Experts from across Australia will meet to discuss how individuals, communities, government and business can respond to the effects of economic and social disruption in rural, regional and remote Australia.

SEGRA is more than a think tank; participants will also be putting forward ways in which people living in regional Australia might act to facilitate opportunities to ensure ongoing investment and sustainable growth.

The SEGRA conference was established to promote the valuable role regions played in both community wellbeing, environmental protection and the economy. Its goal was to ensure the importance of regional Australia in the national agenda was adequately considered most particularly at times of significant change and disruption. SEGRA is now recognised as Australia's most credible, independent voice on issues affecting regional Australia.

To register and for the full conference program visit www.segra.com.au

Regions SA news

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OZ Minerals CEO and Managing Director Andrew Cole and Kokatha Chairperson Chris Larkin with Premier Jay Weatherill at the Carrapateena site

New Carrapateena mine brings 1000 jobs to Far North

Regional South Australia is set for a major jobs boost with OZ Mineral's decision to give the green light to the \$916m Carrapateena mine.

The mine is Australia's largest undeveloped copper project, and construction of the site – located 160km north of Port Augusta – is expected to create 1000 jobs. When complete, the copper-gold project will stand proudly among the state's three largest copper mine, with Olympic Dam – the largest – and Prominent Hill.

Carrapateena is expected to begin copper production by late 2019, with an estimated output of more than 65,000 tonnes a year. Additionally, 67,000 ounces of gold annually are expected.

The copper product is expected to be among the highest grade on world markets – while production costs are expected to be among the lowest.

The Adelaide-based company's decision to proceed with the mine comes after a 7.5 kilometre long, 600 metre deep exploratory tunnel, named the Tjati Decline, which began in November last year.

The Tjati Decline – named after the traditional Aboriginal name of a local gecko – provides access to the deep copper-gold deposit.

The ore body was discovered as a direct result of public investment in the State Government's Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE) drilling program in 2005.

Lying within South Australia's copper-rich Gawler Craton, Carrapateena appeals: OZ Minerals has identified multi-decade production from the high-grade deposit, as well as the excellent potential for the nearby Khamsin and Fremantle Doctor prospects, within 10 km.

PACE is a State Government geoscience initiative focussed on transforming South Australia's mineral exploration industry. Evaluation of the program and the industry has shown over the decade spanning 2004-2013 that collaborative programs like this can provide returns on investment more than 20:1.

The State Government is now deploying PACE Copper, a \$20 million program that will work with industry to provide geophysical data, interpretation and collaborative drilling to unlock the full potential of South Australia's resources.

New mineral emblem a true SA icon



South Australia has a new official State Mineral Emblem – bornite, a distinctive copper ore.

Known as peacock ore due to its iridescent colouring, the striking purple and blue copper mineral has a strong historic connection with the development of South Australia's mineral resources industry.

That connection continues today – copper continues to be a major contributor to the State's economy through Australia's largest underground mine at Olympic Dam, mines at Prominent Hill and Kanmantoo and the newly announced Carrapateena mine.

The South Australian Museum is home to the world's finest example of bornite, and Senior Collection Manager of Earth Sciences Ben McHenry says the choice is absolutely fitting.

"If any single mineral specimen epitomises the unique geology of South Australia this is it," Mr McHenry said.

"This mineral association is unique to the Olympic Dam deposit in the far north of our State.

"The rare specimen of bornite at the South Australian Museum measures 100 cubic centimetres, and is the largest single crystal of bornite ever unearthed.

"Its quality far surpasses any bornite specimen from around the world in both its size and aesthetics, factors that are highly prized in the international mineral market."

A sample of Bornite (courtesy SA Museum)

Regional schools get healthy with Right Bite

Two regional schools are among ten selected to take part in a new initiative focused on helping schoolchildren to eat more healthily.



Premier Jay Weatherill with school kids enjoying the Right Bite program

It's called the Right Bite program, and it will see fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from local South Australian suppliers and delivered free of charge to the schools.

Fisk Street Primary School in Whyalla Norrie and Goolwa Primary school are the two regional schools taking part in the pilot of the program. If the trial is successful, the program will be rolled out across the state.

As well as educating and encouraging children to make healthier food choices, it will also help out parents, who are often under big time pressures during the morning rush – and who may choose pre-packaged snacks because they are faster and easier.

Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close said that eating the right foods was important for children's health and wellbeing – and also improved their chances of achieving higher standards in education.

"Research shows that students with decreased overall diet quality are significantly more likely to perform poorly on assessment tasks," Dr Close said.

"The State Government wants to do everything it possibly can to ensure South Australian students have the best possible opportunities so they can reach their full potential."



CRFT Wines' Candice Helbig and Frewin Ries (picture courtesy Koren Helbig)

Adelaide Hills winemakers CRFT something wonderful

When you arrive at CRFT Wines' Arranmore Vineyard, one of the most striking landmarks is a century-old shearing shed and a horse stable – but it's actually a cellar door.

Winemakers Frewin Ries and Candice Helbig have transformed the bucolic Carey Gully shed into a rustic cellar door for their CRFT label, with the support of a \$25,000 South Australian Wine Industry Development Scheme cellar door grant.

"We've just opened – and we're really doing what we've always wanted to do," Mr Ries said.

"The shearing shed was on our winery and we had used it as a cellar door previously, but when the grant came along, it meant we could really do something with it and make it special.

"The reception has already been great – people really like the style of the place. We're planning on keeping it fresh and changing up the wine lineup regularly."

The new cellar door is designed to provide an intimate, rustic space to showcase the diversity of CRFT's wine offering, but also to provide an educational experience, all while overlooking the beautiful vineyard.

"What we're planning on doing is almost scientific research for wine tasters, in a way," Mr Ries said.

"All our wines come from a single vineyard, so we'll be showcasing the vineyard through our wine flights."

Wine flights are a selection of wines related along a common theme, like flavour, region or variety.

"For example, we might do five different vintages and talk through them – and though the body might change and the depth might change, you'll be able to see that flavour shows right through," Mr Ries said.

The scheme assists South Australian wineries to upgrade and diversify their cellar doors and ensure growth in the state's wine industry, which generated more than \$2 billion in revenue in the 2015-16 financial year.

CRFT is one of 56 wineries and nine regional wine industry associations to have been offered grants under the 2016-2017 round of the scheme.

Following the hugely successful last round, through which South Australian wineries are bringing their most exciting cellar door ideas to fruition, stay tuned for an announcement of the 2017-18 round successful recipients soon.

Regional NDIS workforce hubs spell jobs across the regions

Four new disability workforce hubs are being implemented across regional South Australia to connect jobseekers with employers and training providers in the expanding disability sector.

It is estimated that up to 6,000 new jobs will be created across the state over the next few years to support the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Almost half these new jobs will be in regional areas, with the Eyre Peninsula and West Coast region expected to see 350 new jobs and the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula 650.

The new hubs will have shopfronts located in Murray Bridge, Berri, Clare, Kadina, Port Pirie, Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Port Lincoln.

The four regional hubs will be joined by a fifth in Southern Adelaide, and follow on from the success of the first hub in Northern Adelaide. In the first six months,

the Northern Adelaide hub supported 110 people with specialised career services, more than 300 students to undertake subsidised vocational education and more than 140 participants in targeted employment projects.

Additionally, people with disability and their families, as well as jobseekers interested in working in the growing disability sector, are encouraged to attend upcoming National Disability Insurance Scheme expos throughout the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

The expos are being hosted by the State Government to help people better understand how they might benefit from the NDIS.

They will feature stalls with disability service providers offering information to people with disabilities and their families, plus stalls from registered training organisations and career services providing information to jobseekers.

Expos will be held across the Yorke and Mid North, Far North, and Eyre and Western regions in 2017, while metro and Adelaide Hills expos will be held in early 2018.

Expos are free, but you must register at mysupportmychoice.sa.gov.au

More information on NDIS services and employment opportunities is also available at the website.



NDIS expos are taking place near you

Seven new special ambulances for the APY lands

Health services in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands are set to get a boost with a fleet of seven new ambulances.

A \$770,000 State Government grant to Nganampa Health Council (NHC) will support the new ambulances, which will replace its existing fleet of four vehicles.

Each of the seven emergency vehicles will be purpose-fit to deal with the harsh outback terrain across the region, and all will be fitted with on-board GPS trackers to ensure authorities can monitor them at all times.

The new ambulances will be used for emergency rescues and as first response vehicles, and will transport patients safely to either primary health care clinics or air strips for medical evacuation.

Maintaining ambulance coverage in remote South Australia is critical to the health and welfare of the Anangu as it provides them with access to vital services.

SA Ambulance Service will work closely with NHC to purchase vehicles that are suited to the rugged terrain in the APY Lands. Once the 4WD ambulances have been purchased, NHC will staff and maintain the vehicles.

NHC Health Services manager David Busuttill said the new fleet would be a boon for the region.

"The new ambulances will make a big difference to the lives of the Anangu," he said.

"We welcome this contribution from the State Government to maintain the health and welfare of indigenous Australians."



One of the new purpose-built Outback ambulances

Regional primary schools leading the nation in 3D printing technology

Regional primary schools across the state are leading Australia, with 26 taking part in the nation's first large-scale rollout of 3D printing technology.

The 3D printing technology is being supported by Adelaide-based Makers Empire, a global education technology company, and the Department of Education and Childhood Development.

While the technology is being used to develop students' critical, creative and design thinking, it is also being used to engage students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) by allowing them to solve authentic, real world problems.

The software being used allows very young children to create 3D models without having to master complex software, while upper primary students can more flexibly create designs.

Primary teachers have been provided with professional learning in operating 3D printer software and hardware and identifying ways to use this across the curriculum. Teachers in the program then developed their own learning plan and design projects.

Examples of design projects include year 2 and 3 students creating butterfly feeders, allowing older students to study and understand the lifecycle of Monarch butterflies, while upper primary students used 3D printing to develop a rubber stamp to promote their products and explore the concepts of branding, advertising and ethical business.

Education and Childhood Development Minister Susan Close said the State Government was doing everything it could to drive home the importance of STEM learning.

"It is so important young people learn about new and emerging technologies from an early age," Dr Close said.

"We live in such a competitive world and any type of technological advantage could mean the difference between getting a job or having a career."

The 26 regional schools involved in the program are part of a larger group of 49 statewide, and include Allendale East Area School, Augusta Park PS, Birdwood PS, Carlton School, Clare PS, Cowell Area School, Crystal Brook PS, Flinders View PS, Frances PS, Lobethal PS, McLaren Vale PS, Meningie Area School, Miltaburra Area School, Mount Barker PS, Mundulla PS, Naracoorte PS, Padthaway PS, Quorn Area School, Snowtown PS, Springton PS, Stirling East PS, Stirling North PS, Wallaroo Mines PS, Woodside PS and Yankalilla Area School.

3D-printed work produced by South Australian schoolkids



Seed Services Australia celebrates centenary

Seed Services Australia – the State Government's seed certification and seed testing service - is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Primary Industries and Regions SA's (PIRSA) Seed Services Australia has had a critical role in helping the state's seed industry become the nation's largest in volume and most diverse in terms of the number and range of species grown.

The State Government officially started providing a seed testing service in 1917 - and this year it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

On Friday 7 July 2017 guests including clients and industry partners joined current and former PIRSA staff at the Waite Campus Plant Research Centre to celebrate Seed Services Australia 100th anniversary at a special lunch and tour of the laboratory.

PIRSA's Rural Solutions SA Executive Director Daniel Casement, who welcomed guests and staff at the lunch, said Seed Services Australia played an important role in the department's chief aim to assist primary industries and regions to grow, innovate and maximise their economic growth potential.

"Seed Services Australia provides seed certification and seed testing

services to the temperate pasture seed export industry for domestic and international markets," Mr Casement said.

"Today, it tests more than 10,000 seed samples annually and inspects 35,000 hectares of planted seed crops from across southern and eastern Australia, as part of its acclaimed national seed certification and SureSeed programs.

"It boasts around 600 clients, including several who have been using the service for over 70 years."

Mr Casement said the team also had an increasingly important role in growing the State's reputation for providing premium food and wine from our clean environment.

"As an internationally accredited and quarantine approved testing facility, and with support from SARDI's plant pathology laboratories, it has a frontline role in protecting Australia's seed, grain and grazing industries from prohibited or potentially devastating weed seeds, disease organisms and pests," he said.

"Today, many of Australia's leading seed companies and exporters trust Seed Services Australia to ensure their continued access to domestic and international markets. Everyone who has contributed to this service over the past 100 years should be proud of this achievement."

Seed Services Australia also celebrated its 100 year anniversary through being the Gold Sponsor of the four-day Australian Seed Federation conference held in Adelaide in August.

As well as sponsoring the conference, Seed Services Australia hosted a lunch and tour of its world-class laboratories and conducted a seed lot sampling training course for delegates.

South Australia produces about 12,000 tonnes or 70% of Australia's temperate certified pasture and forage seed annually, with a conservative economic value of approximately \$210 million.

Seed Services' seed analyst Aaron Keane





Kangaroo Island's
Southern Ocean Lodge

Two regional venues take on global top 100

Regional South Australia is cementing its reputation as a destination of choice for short and long term visitors.

While Adelaide has been named the fifth-most liveable city in the world for the sixth year in a row, regional South Australia also has much to crow about.

Two of the state's hotels have just been named in the world's top 100 according to the prestigious *Travel + Leisure* magazine – the only Australian properties to make the list.

The Top 100 Hotels in the World for 2017 named Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island as number 47, while The Louise in the Barossa ranked not far behind at 53.

Southern Ocean Lodge is part of the Baillie Lodges group. Managing Director James Baillie said the group was thrilled and honoured about the ranking.

"We've come in at #47 worldwide and as the top Australian hotel in the Australian New Zealand resorts category, sharing great company with our Luxury Lodges of Australia contemporary – also from South Australia – The Louise in the Barossa Valley.

"This is Southern Ocean Lodge's fifth time on the *Travel + Leisure* World's Best list and we consider it a fairly remarkable achievement for

a property that was opened almost ten years ago in 2008.

"It's a real indication of just how timeless the property is, and how enduring its appeal to guests from Australia and overseas.

"The *Travel + Leisure* World's Best List is really one of the world's most esteemed collections and representative of the world's most incredible travel experiences.

"We value it particularly as it's a reader-driven list, each place has been awarded by those who have experienced the properties – or who have it on their to-do list."

The ranking pits South Australia's venues against everything from safari lodges in Namibia to luxury spa resorts in Florida and California – and it proves the state is more than able to hold its own.

The accolades come hot on the heels of South Australia being named in Lonely Planet's 2017 Must-See Regions.

Direct flights to KI from Adelaide, Melbourne

Kangaroo Island is one of South Australia's premier tourist destinations – and getting there is becoming easier thanks to an airport expansion that has attracted direct flights from Qantas.

The flights are set to commence from December 2017, as part of an agreement between Qantas, the State Government, Kangaroo Island Council and Adelaide Airport Limited.

Three Qantas flights will service the island each week, increasing to five times per week for the peak summer-to-Easter period.

In a coup for tourism, there will also be three flights per week from Melbourne during the summer holiday season.

The flights are possible thanks to the State Government's \$9 million contribution toward the upgrade of the KI Airport at Kingscote. The commitment has been matched by Federal funding, and the upgrade is expected to be complete in November.

The main runway is being extended and a new terminal building will be built with the ability to handle security screening.

Kangaroo Island had 138,000 overnight visitors in the past year, injecting more than \$119 million into the South Australian economy. About half are from South Australia, 22 per cent are from interstate and 29 per cent are from overseas.

The airport upgrade and increased flights come as more tourists are expected to experience the \$5.8 million Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail, which opened last year and was ranked third on Lonely Planet's list of top new travel destinations for 2017.



Livestock SA CEO Andrew Curtis and Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell try out the SA Brands app

New smartphone app to safeguard livestock brands

Little lost lambs might be a thing of the past, thanks to an innovative smartphone app.

The SA Brands app, developed in collaboration between Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) and Livestock SA was officially launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell at the Growing SA Conference on 11 August.

SA Brands is an intuitive app that not only allows livestock producers to manage livestock brands and report lost livestock, but also connect with other livestock owners for up-to-date community news and activities.

Livestock SA President Geoff Power said the app will help livestock producers manage their brands and animals.

“SA Brands will strengthen and improve the service Livestock SA provides to South Australia’s livestock industry,” Mr Power said.

“We’d like to thank the State Government for their support in the development of the app.”

There were 60,000 registered brands in South Australia before the repeal of the Brands Act 1933, some of which will now be managed through the new app.

While the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) and Property Identification Codes are in place to provide lifetime traceability and identification of cattle, sheep and goats, keeping track of brands is helpful in situations such as stock theft and identifying stray stock, where NLIS ear tags may be missing.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell said the SA Brands app would help livestock producers keep track of brands more easily.

“Brand registrations used to be stored in dusty old books,” Mr Bignell said.

“But now South Australia’s livestock producers can register and manage their brands through this brilliant

Australian-first ‘Brands App’, which is simple to use and effective for stock management.

“It’s a brilliant example of what government and industry can achieve when we work together to develop a solution and the end result is a product which is a major win for livestock producers.”

South Australian livestock producers were extensively consulted during the design process of the app.

The industry contributes significantly to the state’s economy with beef and sheep production generating gross revenue of more than \$3.3 billion in 2015-16.

The SA Brands app is available for download on iPhone and Android phones and can also be used on tablets and desktop computers.

Bringing farm work health and safety into the future

When Katy Landt and her family had a near-miss on their Yorke Peninsula farm, they searched for a way to monitor their workplace health and safety – but they found that no such system existed for agribusiness.

So they invented it themselves, and now with the help of a State Government grant, it’s being rolled out to farmers across Australia.

Safe Ag Systems is an innovative, cloud-based software which enables agribusiness to develop and maintain their workplace health and safety and assist with ongoing compliance. It is designed to help reduce the incidence of workplace deaths and injuries, and it’s been helped to market by the South Australian Early Commercialisation Fund (SAECF).

The \$10 million fund provides grants of up to \$500,000 to innovative South Australian ideas to help make them commercially viable.

Safe Ag Systems chief executive Katy Landt said she was proud to receive a \$498,000 grant – the largest since the program was introduced in November 2016.

“The grant has given us the ability to take Safe Ag Systems national,” she said.

“We have clients in every state now excluding Northern Territory. We’re looking to expand internationally, but want to make sure we’ve got the model right in Australia first.”

The SAECF grant has also meant Safe Ag Systems has been able to expand its staff from six to 11 employees.

“We needed to get a safety system in place for our farm, but we discovered there was nothing for farming specifically – everything was geared towards the mining and construction industries,” Ms Landt said.

“It doesn’t fit farming – one minute you’re up a ladder, the next you’re spraying chemicals, and the next you are working with heavy machinery. You would be forever filling in paperwork.”

Safe Ag Systems instead uses a central online service linked to the app on workers’ smart phones to ensure safety compliance and record management for your farm.



SA-based Safe Ag System’s innovative new software is helping to bring down farm injuries and deaths

The SAECF program is administered by TechInSA, the State Government’s innovation agency. TechInSA’s mandate is to offer start-ups and early-stage companies customised programs including grants, business and marketing assistance and lab and office space, as well as assisting with access to global networks.

To date more than 240 expression of interest have been received for the SAECF grant from entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and businesses. Expressions of interest are still open at innovation.sa.gov.au

Clare Valley's trash is local business' treasure

Regional businesses and the State Government are partnering to make the idea of a "circular economy" a closer reality in our regions.

The circular economy refers to a better economic system driven by an imperative to keep material resources in use – or circulating – for as long as possible. Cities and countries across the world are adopting the concept, as it creates both jobs and economic windfalls while also lessening our environmental impact.

Clare Valley Waste Services (CVWS) is one company driving the shift to the circular economy.

With the help of a \$299,696 Zero Waste infrastructure grant from Green Industries SA (GISA), the company has been able to upgrade its recycling system and install a green waste bay.

CVWS' multi-resource recovery facility already diverts approximately 85 per cent of kerbside waste away from landfill; the new upgrades allow diversion of paper and cardboard to happen 30 per cent faster.

Manager Josh Zappone said the GISA grant had been crucial in allowing the company to grow – including taking on two new staff.

"The grant's really allowing us to accelerate our business," he said.

"We were heading in this direction, but this has allowed us to move forward about two years. It's really providing an option for councils – and they're loving having the option of something local.

"Six councils use our facility for their waste. Before, some of those councils were taking their waste directly to metro landfills or recycling centres.

"But now they have a local option – logistically and environmentally it's much better, because there's much less traffic on the road – but it's also cheaper for councils.

The new green waste bay also has local councils interested in taking up a three-bin system – rubbish, recycling and green waste.

"We do kerbside collection for several councils, but only one has green waste," Mr Zappone said.

"Some offer free green waste dumping at the local transfer station, but that's not a substitute. For many people, if they have a green waste bin – they'll use it. But if they have to wait for a trailer load – or get a trailer in the first place – they're going to find other ways of disposing of that waste."

For more information on the circular economy, visit www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-economy



Clare Valley Waste Service manager Josh Zappone (picture courtesy Northern Argus)

Pikes Beer – made in SA, loved by the world

The Pike family in the Clare Valley is already known across the state for the wine – but now they're making a splash on the world stage with their beer.

Beer has been a part of the Pike family story for six generations – Henry Pike established Pikes Dorset Brewery in 1886, but due to economic and family pressures, the original brewery and the chain of hotels was unfortunately sold in 1972.

Andrew and Neil Pike reintroduced Pikes Beer back in 1996 as an adjunct to the family wine business Pikes Wines. But the brewing arm of the business really hit its stride two years ago, riding the new wave of the craft beer industry.

In 2015, Pikes were able to bring the brewery back to Clare with the support of a \$184,477 Regional Development Fund (RDF) grant. The move to the new craft brewery enabled expansion of national distribution as well as attracting more visitors to the region.

The craft beer boom has also been the perfect platform to expand to the world – and a \$9,500 Export Partnership Program (EPP) grant has helped immensely in developing marketing materials and programs to support that export expansion, Andrew Pike said.

"Today we export craft beer to six countries worldwide - the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, China, Poland, the Philippines, Ireland and Japan - and we have also just secured a new market in the Netherlands" Mr Pike said.



Pikes Brewery's Andrew and Alister Pike

"We are seeing a craft beer revolution globally, and this increased appetite for high quality beer beverages is exciting for us.

"It does help your brand recognition if you have active export markets and we look forward to exploring further opportunities for our beers in various new markets."

Pikes Wines is also expanding its operations, with a \$320,000 RDF grant to support the construction of a new modern visitors' centre, showcasing regional and local produce.

The new facility, at the winery's scenic Polish Hill River Estate, includes a 130-seat function centre.

The EPP provides funding assistance for small and medium-sized businesses to access new global markets through marketing and export development opportunities. In 2016-17, 54 businesses were offered more than \$1.2 million and 12 industry groups were offered \$471,779.

For more information, visit www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/EPP



The new Chateau Seppeltsfield Minquan in Henan Province, China

Seppeltsfield opens the door in China

Seppeltsfield is one of the oldest and most prestigious wine companies in South Australia and across the nation – and now it is breaking new ground overseas.

In a first for an Australian wine company, Seppeltsfield has opened a bricks and mortar base for the company in China – the new \$75 million Chateau Seppeltsfield Minquan in Henan Province.

This new cellar door – while less accessible for South Australians – is providing Chinese consumers the opportunity to savour, and buy, premium wine in their own backyard.

Seppeltsfield sales and marketing manager Chad Elson says that Australia's relationship as a major exporter of wine into China has developed rapidly over the past 10 years.

"This growth, and the significant potential for future growth, gave us the confidence to take this step for our brand," Mr Elson said.

"Importantly for us, perhaps even more than immediate sales or tourism opportunities, is the signal that this sends of our commitment to the Chinese market."

China now eclipses the United States as Australia's biggest wine export market.

Ten years ago, 20 million litres of wine worth just over \$10 million were exported to China. Today the wine trade with China is worth \$520 million, with half a billion litres exported and South Australian wine making up two-thirds of the volume.

Mr Elson said Seppeltsfield has travelled with several South Australian Government trade missions to China, each playing an important role in developing relationships with Chinese businesses and opening networks.

"State Government representatives on these missions have assisted us in varying ways - from connecting us with officials from Chinese wine and agriculture departments, to presence at launches such as Chateau Seppeltsfield," he said.

The new Chateau is a partnership with Chinese wine company Minquan Jiuding Wine Company Ltd and will help Seppeltsfield build on its export success and capitalise on China's voracious appetite for South Australian wine.

Mushrooms to grow in the Murray and Mallee region

Two hundred new jobs are being created in the Murray and Mallee region, thanks to a growing national hunger for mushrooms.

Horticulture business Costa announced a \$60 million upgrade to its Monarto facility in May 2017 to help meet growing national demand for fresh mushrooms.

The upgrade will be supported through a \$1.8 million grant, with equal contributions from the Regional Development Fund and the Economic Investment Fund.

Along with the 200 new jobs, the upgrade will double production from 120 to 240 tonnes each week.

Costa is one of Australia's leading horticultural businesses; as well as mushrooms, it produces avocados, bananas, berries, citrus, table grapes and glasshouse tomatoes with major export markets to Asia, North America and Europe.

The company has mushroom production facilities in five states, but the Monarto site

is Costa's newest mushroom farm, opening seven years ago. It also has the lowest production costs of all sites, and can supply the rest of Australia within one to two days of shipment.

The investment was supported by IASA, the arm of the State Government focussed on securing investment in the state.

Less than two years after its establishment in October 2015, the agency has secured 20 major investment projects for South Australia and created more than 6000 jobs.

The 20 projects combined equate to an impressive \$1.13 billion in capital expenditure, which is estimated to contribute more than \$5.7 billion to the South Australian economy.

IASA was founded to capture foreign direct investment in South Australia to boost our economy and create South Australian jobs. It provides a dedicated point of contact for all project requirements.

IASA has also been able to attract major global businesses, such as Babcock and Boeing, to South Australia, as well as major investment in the state's regions, including Blue Lake Dairy and Big River Pork.



Costa's mushroom facility in Monarto

Export missions spell success for Nova Vita Wines

Trade missions open international doors for South Australian regional businesses like nothing else.

One business to thrive through South Australian trade missions is Nova Vita Wines in the Adelaide Hills.

The Adelaide Hills family business has participated in six separate trade missions since May 2015, including China, the United States and South East Asia. In October, Nova Vita will head to North East Asia, including Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

Nova Vita's Mark Kozned says the value of the missions lies in relationship building.

"Nothing happens overnight," Mr Kozned said.

"The missions are about getting in front of potential importers of your wine. Earlier this year marked the second time I've been to Thailand for a wine mission, and I was able to revisit several contacts and continue to build those relationships.

"The trade missions have been fantastic, and the exports and export potential have given us the confidence to move forward with a building project – a cellar door and tasting area that will really help us."

As a result of the exposure to foreign buyers and relationships developed through the missions, Mr Kozned estimates that the company has secured more

than \$500,000 of ongoing international orders from as far afield as New Jersey, Singapore and Thailand.

"These missions have opened doors for us and given us the opportunities to show our products to a global audience," he said.

"I absolutely recommend that other South Australian businesses take advantage of it."

Already in 2017 the State Government has led trade missions across the Middle East and North Africa (including Iran, UAE, Egypt and Qatar), Europe (including Germany, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom) and South East Asia (including China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia).

The opportunities to showcase South Australian produce – especially our premium food and wine – on the international stage will grow in the second half of the year, with outbound missions planned for North East Asia (including Japan, Korea and Taiwan), the United States and India.



Nova Vita's Mark and Joanne Kozned



Gemtree Wines new cellarhand Jamie Grosser

Grant scheme accelerating jobs in SA regions

The State Government's Job Accelerator Grant (JAG) is helping to put more people into work in South Australia's regions.

The \$109 million JAG scheme offers a grant of up to \$10,000 over two years for each new full-time equivalent job created in small and medium businesses.

With the help of a JAG, Mike and Melissa Brown from Gemtree Wines in McLaren Flat were able to bring more staff on – including a new cellarhand, Jamie Grosser.

"He had previously done a vintage with us, and we would have taken him on as a casual," Ms Brown said.

"However, because of the grant, we've been able to bring him on full-time.

"That's a very positive outcome for Jamie – it means he has that ongoing job security as well as all the benefits that come with full-time employment. He's also getting married next year, so it's great news for him across the board!

"But it's also a positive outcome for us. Permanent employment is much more preferable than casual for us – it means we can look to a longer term relationship. He's a newcomer to the wine industry, and we'd like to train him up and have that stability, and make him feel part of the team."

Mr Grosser is one of almost 10,000 positions that have been registered in the scheme. Grants of up to \$10,000

over two years are available to small and medium businesses with a payroll between \$600,000 and \$5 million, while smaller businesses with payrolls less than \$600,000 can receive a grant of up to \$4000.

The scheme was also extended at the 2017-2018 State Budget to include additional grants for apprentices and trainees. The expanded scheme means businesses will receive an additional \$5000 for apprentices and trainees. The expansion has also been backdated to June 2016, meaning businesses that have already hired a new apprentice or trainee are already eligible for the payment.

For both grants, the new staff member must be employed for at least 12 months. Businesses must register an employee for the scheme within 90 days of the employee's start date. However, there is no limit to the number of times a business can access the grants.

For more information or to register, visit www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au/jobs



Regional Youth Trainee Asheigh Darrie asks a question of the Premier at the Kangaroo Island and Fleurieu Peninsula Country Cabinet

Sky's the limit for Regional Youth Trainees

The State Government's Regional Youth Traineeship Program (RYTP) is in its second round, and according to trainees from the first round, the program has already been vital for their future careers.

Alexandrina Council Business Administration Trainee Ashleigh Darrie believes the hands-on experience she is gaining through the program will be invaluable.

"My experience with Alexandrina Council has been completely unforgettable," Ms Darrie said.

"I feel that working in the council has set me up for the future better than anything else could have."

Ms Darrie has previously been awarded the Ngarrindjeri Nation Female Youth of the Year and City of Victor Harbor Young Citizen of the Year awards. With the support of council, she has been a guest speaker at a number of events, including the Local Government Association AGM and Local Government Professional's HR Network Forum.

Ms Darrie's two-year traineeship with the council will be complete in early 2018, and working in Alexandrina Council has inspired her to seek a longer-term career in local government.

"I'm passionate about working in local government, and it's something I want to pursue in the future," she said.

"It's a unique way to work with the community – it's very immersive.

"If I were volunteering my time I might be able to help out once or twice a year, but with the council it's every day – whether it's consulting with the community, running events or working on the counter."

The Regional Youth Traineeship Program is a State Government initiative delivered by the Local Government Association.

Through the two rounds of the \$4 million program, 114 regional young people aged between 17 and 24 will be employed through regional councils.

Participants have benefited from tailored training and work plans, so on completion of their two-year traineeship, they will be ready to take advantage of further employment opportunities.

Trainees win big at SA Training Awards

The State Government's Regional Youth Trainees have also been kicking goals at the 2017 South Australian Training Awards (SATA).

Sandy Beaton, a Regional Youth Traineeship Program (RYTP) trainee employed by the Rural City of Murray Bridge, took out the 2017 SATA Trainee of the Year Award.

RYTP trainee Nikita Isaacson, who is employed by Whyalla City Council through the program, was also a finalist in the awards.

Both Ms Beaton and Ms Isaacson are studying a Certificate III in Business and Administration as part of their traineeship.

Ms Beaton was not the only regional award winner, with Murray Bridge's Max Miegel taking out the School-Based Apprentice of the Year Award and the People's Choice Award.

The awards, hosted by the State's Training and Skills Commission, recognise and reward individuals that excel in training, as well as organisations for excellence in training delivery.

One such organisation is the Murraylands Food Alliance for its Jobs 4 Murraylands program, which won the Industry Collaboration Award for its work tackling the region's high unemployment rate through one-on-one training with job-seekers.

The winners, selected from a group of 24 individuals and 15 organisations, will have the opportunity to represent South Australia at the Australian Training Awards in Canberra later in the year.

Other regional finalists included Veronica Presley (Two Wells) and Kaitlin Purcell (Strathalbyn) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year; Troy Haynes (Direk) and Jakeb Solley (Mt Barker) for Apprentice of the Year; Phoebe Brice (Gladstone) and Ellie Jones (Keith) for School-Based Apprentice of the Year; Tyke Staude (Cannawigara) for Trainee of the Year Award; and Erica Austria (Waikerie) for Vocational Student of the Year.



South Australian Training Awards Trainee of the Year Sandy Beaton