

Table of Contents

1.	Overview	1
2.	Regional Budget highlights	4
3.	Challenges facing regional South Australia.....	8
	Importance of regions.....	8
	Unique challenges	8
	Making a difference.....	9
4.	Supporting planning and infrastructure	10
	Assisting communities to plan their future	10
	Expanding socioeconomic infrastructure	10
	Sustainable natural resource management and land use planning.....	15
	Management of water resources.....	15
	Protecting our natural resources and areas of conservation and cultural significance	17
5.	Improving regional services.....	19
	Equity of services.....	19
6.	Supporting economic and business development.....	24
	Expand existing industry, attract new investment and facilitate diversification	24
	Supporting areas facing structural change	28
	Indigenous employment opportunities	28
	Improving regional employment and training.....	29
7.	Strengthening communities	30
	Promoting leadership development and renewal	30
	Youth development	30
	Building community capacity	31
	Developing skills and the pathway to jobs	32
	Improving culture and leisure options	33
8.	Promoting the regions.....	35
	Recognising the contribution	35
	Marketing the capabilities and potential.....	35
	Promotion of government services.....	36
9.	Government working as one	37
	Whole of government arrangements	37
	Facilitating local decision making.....	37
	Encouraging local empowerment.....	38
	Enhanced planning and coordination at a regional level	38
	Attraction and retention of skilled workers	40

1. OVERVIEW

The State Government strongly believes that rural and regional South Australia has a bright and optimistic future. Through this statement, the State Government renews its commitment to working in partnership with rural and regional people and their communities, business and other spheres of government to make our regions a better place to live and work.

The Government's objective is to ensure that regional South Australia's solid contribution to the State's economic and social well-being is not only sustained and recognised, but also enhanced by ensuring rural and regional people share—to the maximum extent possible—in the economic and social opportunities open to the State as a whole.

South Australia is a State that is promoted as **productive, creative and competitive**—arguably never more so than today, as we capture the benefits of emerging industries and new opportunities in rural and regional areas.

A rural recovery is sweeping through country South Australia and follows a rapid move towards a more diverse range of globally based and consumer focused industries. As a State we are the outstanding performer at present due to our rural-based exports, value of production and growth in regional tourism.

The transformation of rural and regional South Australia has been fuelled by record grain and grape harvests, high livestock prices, an improved wool market, a rapidly growing aquaculture and wine industry, increased fruit and vegetable production, and growth in regional visitation. The windfall is flowing through to rural and regional communities with prosperity and employment in many country towns at levels not experienced for many years. In many country areas the problems of unemployment and low incomes are being replaced by workforce accommodation shortages, a lack of skilled labour and an unprecedented demand on infrastructure. Indeed there is no shortage of positive stories in rural and regional South Australia.

The Government comes to this year's budget with yet another solid year of achievement in regional development—one that has encouraged and maximised local involvement in planning, investment and decision making. A firm commitment by the State Government to regional development has helped build an environment conducive to business confidence and increased the potential for long-term investment by the private sector. Extensive work across government contributes to strategic regional development outcomes.

As a demonstration of the State Government's commitment to regional development it has established:

- a Minister for Regional Development who is a senior Cabinet Minister and has particular responsibility for raising regional development issues in Cabinet
- an Office of Regional Development to advocate for a whole of government approach to regional development, which coordinates relevant agencies on a range of regional development matters including workforce accommodation, infrastructure, access to grants and business development funding, community capacity building, planning approvals, regional staffing and Commonwealth–State relations
- a Regional Development Council to advocate for regions on issues at the State level, which meets quarterly and has given priority to developing policy directions for regional South Australia, telecommunications and access to the information economy, regional leadership renewal, an infrastructure investing strategy and the joining of governments in the development of one-stop-shop service centres

- a Regional Development Issues Group of senior State Government officers with authority to commit their agencies to action, which meets monthly and has coordinated joint agency action on implementing the recommendations of the Regional Development Task Force, including service delivery planning, regional employment and training, and identification of infrastructure gaps
- a strengthened system of strategically oriented regional development boards, which facilitated the creation or retention of 6055 jobs and \$140 million of investment in regional South Australia in the past three years
- a \$15.5 million Regional Development Infrastructure Fund to accelerate high priority infrastructure development in regional South Australia, in addition to the normal capital works spending on infrastructure in regional areas, which is going a long way to providing essential funding to get key projects and developments up and running, particularly in growth industries such as horticulture, aquaculture and tourism; in its first year of operation projects assisted led to the creation or retention of some 1570 jobs with new investment of over \$368 million.

In January 2001, the Government released *Directions for Regional South Australia—A Framework for Action*, which established the principles to guide the pursuit of economic growth and social well-being of regional areas and recognised the importance of the regions to the prosperity of the State. It added to the existing set of policies and service delivery mechanisms by identifying common goals, offering new coordination opportunities and ultimately achieving a whole of government approach to servicing the needs of regional people. This framework was developed under the auspices and direction of the Regional Development Council and built on the excellent work of the Regional Development Task Force. Most task force recommendations have now been implemented.

Directions for Regional South Australia contains the strategies needed to deliver a better quality of life, a rising standard of living and more jobs for regional South Australia. These arrangements will continue to foster a focused and collaborative environment to benefit all South Australians.

Regional development is a partnership between government, industry and the community. *Directions for Regional South Australia* is not just about government. It is intended to provide a framework for encouraging productive partnerships to respond to the issues impacting on regions over the next decade, and therefore reporting on *Directions for Regional South Australia* will be annual and ongoing. It is a policy document that has and will continue to be considered as part of each Minister's strategic priorities and government agency planning cycles.

This is the State Government's second Regional Statement released as part of the budget papers. In preparing this Statement the Government has taken into consideration the priorities identified by the Regional Development Council and those of many other regional and community organisations raised in submissions and/or through our Community Cabinets during the past year. Indeed this is what our Community Cabinets are all about—listening and learning.

The Government is particularly keen to communicate the impact of the budget on the regions. The inaugural Regional Statement for 2000-01 entitled *Regional South Australia: A Better Future* recognised that many government agencies expend considerable effort and resources implementing policies and delivering services that contribute to regional development outcomes. The 2001-02 Regional Statement outlines the latest developments in a range of policies, services and capital works the State Government has either put in place or enhanced, in response to the needs of rural and regional people.

Regional South Australia: Making a Difference has been prepared and presented in line with the strategic goals or priority areas identified in *Directions for Regional South Australia*. In so doing, the Government demonstrates how it plans to focus resources from a whole of government perspective to address the strategic issues and priority needs of regional South Australia. The Government also

recognises that resources are limited and will aim to encourage partnerships among regional communities, business and governments to harness joint effort to focus on making a difference for regional South Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rob Kerin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "R".

Rob Kerin
Deputy Premier
Minister for Primary Industries and Resources
Minister for Regional Development

May 2001

2. REGIONAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

This Regional Statement presents a comprehensive package of new, expanded and continuing programs and services designed to meet regional challenges and help make our regions a better place to live and work.

The highlights of the package follow.

Supporting planning and infrastructure

The Government has increased investment in key strategic infrastructure to improve regional economic performance. Improving regional infrastructure and getting the fundamentals right, such as electricity and water headworks, rail and road linkages, airports and visitor facilities, and telecommunications, will encourage investment in regional areas and stimulate economic development and employment opportunities. Based on the strong export performance of regional industries the Government places a priority on developing efficient transport and freight service improvements.

The Government is also tackling a number of land and water quality issues that will require ongoing attention. The Government's *State Water Plan*, with a key emphasis on sustainable use, will play a strong role in protecting our water resources for future generations. Other examples include integrated natural resource management enabling local communities to plan sustainable land use and land management practices; River Murray management and remediation initiatives; local and regional management of water resources through catchment water management plans; and sustainable water use to support industry.

The State is providing \$13.6 million in 2001-02 for expenditure on various programs under the *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality* which is proceeding with matching contributions from the Commonwealth Government. The programs include revegetation, bushcare and environmental programs, salinity interception and rehabilitation projects to help address the salinity and water quality issues in the three South Australian regions of the Lower Murray, the South East and the Mount Lofty Ranges–Northern Agricultural Districts.

The Planning Strategy for the Development of Regional South Australia and the preparation of regional action plans will be finalised in 2001-02.

The Government has renewed and increased its commitment to the Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme and has also committed to examine alternative financing arrangements with the Local Government Association with the objective of advancing the program. Strategic infrastructure support and facilitation will also be encouraged through the Government's infrastructure development funds.

In this budget, the Government has placed a priority on improving facilities for promoting the health and well-being of rural and regional South Australians, especially for Aboriginal people, older people and those with disabilities. There will be substantial upgrading of country hospitals and aged-care facilities over the next two years and \$22.7 million will be spent in 2001-02 upgrading country hospitals and aged-care facilities. For upgrading and constructing new houses \$7.1 million is budgeted. There are also initiatives in the budget to upgrade essential facilities for improved education and training, emergency services, and law and order. In addition, the Government aims to increase its focus on healthy living and build on effective prevention and health promotion programs by allocating \$17 million over three years for community sporting infrastructure investment.

The Government continues to support the conservation of our natural landscapes and heritage. For example, the International Year of Ecotourism will herald major improvements to visitor facilities at Rocky River and the new Gawler Ranges Park, increased funding for marine conservation and coast protection, and the increased funding for Heritage Grants for conservation of heritage listed places. These initiatives together represent a major contribution towards the shared responsibility of preserving our natural assets and uniqueness for future generations.

Improving regional services

Disparities in service delivery in regional South Australia are being addressed through a range of initiatives presented in this statement. The Government will renovate and redescribe information-age government and citizenship. Public resource initiatives through the Government's Information Economy 2002: Delivering The Future strategy will bring the public service closer to regional South Australia, whether it is by way of an online presence or a Service SA shop in a rural town.

The Government will continue to prevent and reduce crime through prevention and early intervention strategies in partnership with local communities. The budget also delivers funding to expand services for victims of crime with new regional services established.

Public housing services will continue to be strongly supported. A network of nine regional offices will continue to support and maintain 12 600 publicly owned houses servicing regional South Australia. In addition, services are provided to assist people establish and maintain accommodation in the private rental market.

Additional resources have been provided to establish a greater regional presence and ensure Government maintains key individual services in regional South Australia. The Government will increase resources in the regions to undertake additional environmental protection work; improve multicultural access to justice; improve licensing and regulatory services within consumer affairs; and improve country mental health services including prevention of depression, early childhood intervention, Aboriginal community services, and promoting the health and well-being of older people.

In this budget the Government has allocated an additional \$1 million to improve fisheries compliance services. Additional fisheries compliance officers and fisheries managers will be located in more towns to provide a local compliance, community awareness and education service. A regional licence service will also be possible through increased resources. The Government will replace the offshore patrol vessel *Tucana* to overcome limitations on compliance operations. This range of initiatives will enable closer communication and consultation with regional communities on government services.

Supporting economic and business development

The Government is committed to assist in facilitating economic growth and export opportunities in regional South Australia by encouraging industrial diversification, expanding existing industries, increasing tourist visitation, and facilitating development opportunities targeted at indigenous and disadvantaged communities. Maximising opportunities from the Adelaide–Darwin rail link is a priority with a suite of initiatives to ensure local businesses and communities are aware and have every opportunity to participate, not only in the construction phase but also in the consequent industry and infrastructure development.

Additional resources will be available to the State's 14 regional development boards for discretionary funding, training and strategic planning. New growth industries will be supported to accelerate development, for example: the farmed seafood industry and support for the establishment of an Aquaculture Cooperative Research Centre; the South Australian bioscience industry with additional funding to Bio Innovation SA; mineral and petroleum production through support for the State Resources Plan; the food industry with initiatives to double its value to \$15 billion by 2010; and the tourism industry with a priority being the development and marketing of the regions.

In addition, the Government is committed to improving access to employment and training programs which is crucial to the advancement of all regions. Regionally based training programs will expand. Innovative teaching and delivery methodologies, including new information and communication technologies, will support training and education across the State. For example, the State's TAFE institutes now have over 4000 online students. It will also expand the choice and quality of programs for rural and remote students. Global Discovery Schools, working with the Technology School of the Future, are investigating ways in which online learning can bridge the isolation barriers. The

Government will improve pathways and options for rural students through enterprise and vocational education, which includes the development of a country vocational college.

Employment development will continue to be a focus for the Government. The emphasis will be on sustainable employment growth through partnerships with the business and community sector. Continued support of the Regional Employment Strategy will further the ability of communities to stimulate their own employment growth through innovative programs, thereby expanding the capacity of regions to broaden their economic base and act as a catalyst for future growth.

Strengthening communities

The Government is committed to helping regional communities develop and enhance their capacity to determine their own future. This is being achieved through support for community/industry planning, leadership development under existing programs such as Community Builders, a Building Stronger Regional South Australia program of initiatives to empower regional communities to grow, the Working Towns program and an additional \$6.2 million to introduce specific new support and promotion services to volunteers.

Supporting youth development is vital to the future of the regions. Improving employment prospects for youth in local communities will be a major focus for the Government. Through the State Youth Employment Program the Government will support 500 young people to find employment in their local community. The Government Youth Traineeship Scheme will result in the placement of 245 trainees in regional South Australia during 2001-02. There are also initiatives that aim to promote youth participation in the community and involvement in local decision making. For example, the Active8 Premier's Youth Challenge will enable 200 young people in rural areas to participate in a range of youth development activities. The Active for Life Strategy will make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of young people by supporting improvement in physical education and increased levels of physical activity through participation in sport and other physical activities.

The Government will establish a Rural Education Forum to give rural parents a greater say in education. This initiative builds on the success of Partnerships 21: in the country 82% of schools have seized the opportunity it offers to have a greater say in how their school is run. A further 229 schools and preschools have indicated that they will enter this project in 2002. The Government will also expand rural care programs and greater access to family day care for Aboriginal families.

In addition, the State Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, is committed to help build the skills of people in the regions. The FarmBis Program is being extended and enhanced to promote continuing education, training and learning opportunities for farmers, while the Networks for You program has been extended to give a greater focus on raising awareness of the opportunities of the internet.

Promoting the regions

The Government is committed to understanding the needs and priorities of people in regional areas and promoting the development of regional South Australia. In excess of \$1 million will support major regional events and projects for the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001-02 in South Australia. Major events include: Connecting the Continent; Federation Roadshow—A History, A Mystery, A Birdseye View; Source To Sea; Tracks to Federation—the East West Rail Commemoration; and Celebration of 100 Years of Food and Fibre Since Federation.

Additional funding will be allocated to support country agricultural shows. The Government will also bolster tourism marketing efforts intrastate and develop regional websites, increasing awareness of tourist product and facilities. Major events and marketing activity for the Year of the Outback 2002 will focus on the outback, the Flinders Ranges and the Eyre Peninsula.

Government working together

The Government will continue to fund new governance arrangements to anticipate, plan, coordinate and implement initiatives and responses to strategic policies and programs that impact on regional development. Partnerships between the State Government and Commonwealth and local governments will be further developed, particularly through the State/Local Government Partnership Program. Work is under way to develop and implement a framework for integrated community services delivery in Ceduna and Coober Pedy.

Fifteen Community Cabinet meetings are expected to be held in 2001 and are great 'listening and learning posts' for the Government.

The Government will continue to provide proponents and the community with an integrated development assessment framework through amendments to Development Plans. Emerging issues for 2001-02 are Development Plan amendments relating to salinity issues along the River Murray and water resource management. Significant and ongoing reform of the *Development Act 1993* is required to ensure it is up to date, relevant, easily understood and integrated with other legislative mechanisms. The Government will also continue to support the development of Outback SA to enhance coordination and delivery of government services to outback areas.

The Government will continue to support strategies to attract and retain skilled professionals within regional South Australia, particularly measures to attract doctors and nurses, and to recruit and train volunteer ambulance officers.

Outcomes

The work of the Regional Development Task Force has been instrumental in focusing attention on issues of concern in regional South Australia. The task force found that people in the regions wanted governments to work cooperatively with communities and with each other to achieve better results. They made it clear they wanted long-term commitments from governments, and improvements in essential areas such as health, education, telecommunications and infrastructure. The Government has responded quickly to the issues raised by regional people and continues to be committed to working in partnership to progressively address them.

During the course of this decade, the State Government is determined to see significant progress made in regional development. The Government, through this Regional Statement, has not only identified its priority areas and policy directions but also the resources allocated to drive the desired outcomes. Indeed this 2001-02 Regional Statement clearly documents the Government's commitment and action to implement the priority areas identified in *Directions for Regional South Australia—A Framework for Action*.

The value of these initiatives is measured, not in their cost alone, but also in the contribution they make to the economic prosperity of regions and the quality of life of their communities.

3. CHALLENGES FACING REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

3.1. IMPORTANCE OF REGIONS

The State's ability to develop its economic and social potential depends on regional development. Much of the economic wealth of South Australia is derived directly from regional activities, and there is also a symbiotic relationship between the growth of economic activity in metropolitan Adelaide and the regions.

Regional communities in South Australia exert an influence far beyond their size and population. Regional South Australia, with little more than a quarter of the State's population, plays a major part in the State's export income. Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show rural-based exports this year are estimated to reach a record \$3.8 billion, surpassing last year's total by \$600 million. This will account for more than half of the State's \$7.5 billion in export earnings for 2000-01. Emerging industries and new opportunities in South Australia's regions are fuelling a fresh optimism.

It is not widely understood that regional South Australia is experiencing considerable, yet uneven recovery. The transformation of country South Australia, particularly over the past five years, has led the State to the verge of a bright new economic era. Indeed, this transformation follows the rapid move into a diverse range of globally based and consumer focused industries. Industries on the move include the following:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Agriculture | Grain remains one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy as it expands into new regions and adopts new technology, new varieties and new crops. South Australian grain production has set a new record this year surpassing 7 million tonnes, worth more than \$1.4 billion. |
| Horticulture | Fruit and vegetable production has doubled in the past five years. |
| Aquaculture | Fish farming is expected to grow from a \$180 million industry in 1998-99 to more than \$1 billion in 2008-09 as South Australia becomes one of the fish farming capitals of the world. |
| Wine | Rapid growth is most likely for the next five years with turnover rising from \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion. |
| Tourism | Tourism is currently driving 10% of South Australia's economic growth through export dollars (international and interstate visitors). South Australian tourism exports are two-thirds the size of the State's agricultural exports and about the same as mining. Jobs in tourism related industries in South Australia have grown at four times the average for all jobs since 1989-90. |

3.2. UNIQUE CHALLENGES

As many communities across the nation are discovering, there are challenges associated with geographical distance, economies of scale, and lack of employment and enterprise opportunities. Change arising from globalisation, new technology, market deregulation and industry rationalisation has had particular and varied impacts on regional South Australia.

Some regions have suffered economic and social stresses as a result of long-term industry restructuring or decline, particularly those with small towns and a narrow industry base. However, areas like the Upper Spencer Gulf, where it has been tough, are finding renewed optimism through the Adelaide-Darwin rail link and other projects involving industry clustering and diversification. Projects like the Port Augusta Social Vision and Action Plan demonstrate a community creating enthusiasm,

commitment and passion about developing and building the provincial city from strength to strength. Port Augusta is a community with a sense of public purpose and a shared agenda for change.

Other regions have benefited from the opportunities created by the emergence and growth of new industries. Improvements are most noticeable in areas such as the South East, the Riverland, the Murray Mallee and parts of the Eyre Peninsula. The unprecedented change in South Australia's industries has seen significant investment in the cropping, viticulture, aquaculture, horticulture and tourism sectors. Regional South Australia, for the first time in decades, has considerable areas experiencing problems of lack of labour, lack of workforce accommodation and an unprecedented demand on infrastructure—a pleasant change, but still a significant challenge.

3.3. MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In view of the importance of regional South Australia and pressures for change facing regional communities, the Government commissioned the Regional Development Task Force to report on strategies to strengthen the State's regions. Its conclusions and recommendations were based on extensive public consultation involving a series of hearings in regional and metropolitan Adelaide.

With most Regional Development Task Force recommendations having now been implemented, the Government has built, and will maintain, a significant foundation for addressing strategic regional issues and needs.

The Government has taken on board the six regional development goals¹ prepared by the Regional Development Council and is determined to see significant progress in achieving them. It understands these goals describe clear outcomes for which regional people seek a concerted and collaborative effort. The agreed goals describe the priority and broad strategic areas in which regional people seek joint effort to make a long-term difference.

Through the initiatives outlined in this statement the Government aims to help make a difference and build a better future for regional South Australia.

¹ Regional Development Framework, Office of Regional Development, South Australia

4. SUPPORTING PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Effective regional development depends on involving the region itself, its community and its businesses and making the most of their resources, both physical and human. An integrated approach to regional planning is fundamental in guiding the growth and development of regional South Australia.

Quality and timely infrastructure is an essential element in modern regional development. Vital links between and within regions are essential for economic development and for the social and individual well-being of regional South Australians. The future economic development of South Australia's regions will rely on suitable energy, water and transport infrastructure for getting commodities and value added products to markets together with telecommunications for transporting ideas and information. Equally important is access to quality social infrastructure such as housing, schools, TAFE, universities, health facilities and community services.

4.1. ASSISTING COMMUNITIES TO PLAN THEIR FUTURE

The Government is committed to assisting rural and regional communities to plan and manage for improved economic and social futures. This means developing new arrangements for regional planning that build on successful planning and incorporate, in a balanced way, land use, economic activities, community and social services, the environment and infrastructure. Key features include the following:

- \$363 000 has been allocated to finalise the Planning Strategy for the Development of Regional South Australia and prepare regional action plans in 2001-02. A draft Planning Strategy has been prepared in response to the Regional Development Task Force Report. Work is under way with local government to prepare regional action plans as a way of gaining local input, integrating regional plans and strategies, identifying regional priorities and influencing government action
- \$550 000 has been allocated to develop regional integrated natural resource management enabling local communities to plan land use and land management practices that provide for the long-term sustainability of land, water and environmental resources. The new arrangements seek to ensure transparency, understanding and involvement of regional communities in determining their land use and land management practices
- \$283 000 has been allocated to continue the Aerial Photography Program which enables geographic and trend analysis to be undertaken by regional communities, local councils, boards and industry groups.

4.2. EXPANDING SOCIOECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The provision and maintenance of world class infrastructure is a critical factor in promoting regional development.

The State Government recognises that improving regional infrastructure, such as electricity and water headworks, rail and road linkages, airports and ports, and telecommunications, will encourage investment in regional areas and stimulate economic development and employment opportunities. The Government provides infrastructure development funds targeting areas where infrastructure requirements are impeding regional development and in 2001-02 they include:

- \$5.5 million for the Regional Development Infrastructure Fund
- \$1 million for the Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund.

In addition, the Government continues to support infrastructure supply and demand audits on all sectors of infrastructure as well as economic development area surveys targeted at strong industry sectors within given regions estimated to cost \$630 000.

The 2001-02 Budget delivers on building regional economic infrastructure in the following areas.

Efficient transport

- \$25 million as the second tranche of a \$150 million contribution to the Adelaide–Darwin rail link construction
- \$43.8 million over the next three years to provide overtaking lanes, shoulder sealing and addressing township issues along national highway corridors (the major project for completion in 2001-02 is the Eyre Highway widening between Ceduna and Lincoln Gap; projects for commencement include shoulder sealing on Port Augusta to Port Wakefield Road, and Dukes Highway, and installing more passing lanes on the Port Augusta to Port Wakefield Road)
- \$4.3 million to cover low cost enhancements to the national highway network to improve safety
- \$25.4 million over the next three years to seal all roads in incorporated areas of regional South Australia (the total length of the roads to be sealed is 436 km)
- Completion of an Outback Roads Strategy with \$7 million allocated to develop and maintain the physical unmade road infrastructure covering outback roads
- \$7.4 million in minor works aimed at improving transport safety, isolated road capacity, pedestrian crossing safety and disabled persons access
- \$33 million to maintain the physical road infrastructure in a serviceable and safe condition
- \$15 million over the next four years to develop safer roads by providing a sealed shoulder on strategic State arterial roads
- \$24.6 million over the next four years to construct at least 30 overtaking lanes on strategic State regional arterial roads (a further 16 lanes in areas such as the Riverland, the South East, the Mid North on Yorke Peninsula and the Fleurieu Peninsula)
- \$2.2 million under the Regional Roads Program to upgrade and seal strategic local roads where increased economic development and tourism are attracting more traffic
- \$2.3 million over three years to upgrade the Port Wakefield to Kulpara and Wallaroo to Port Wakefield routes
- \$3 million to complete sealing and realign an existing local road to provide an improved heavy freight route in the Barossa Valley between the Sturt Highway and Tanunda
- \$2.2 million to improve various tourist roads in the Flinders Ranges identified in the Flinders Ranges Tourist Road Strategy (the Balcanoona to Arkaroola Road will be completed and work on the final stage of the strategy, Parachilna to Blinman, is expected to be undertaken)
- \$2 million to upgrade specific junctions and road sections east of the Adelaide Hills to provide an alternative route for B-double vehicles around the City of Adelaide
- \$4.1 million over four years to improve road safety on the Lincoln Highway by widening it to a satisfactory standard for use by permit vehicles required for efficient freight transport

- \$1.1 million over two years to enable road train access between the National Highway at Warnertown and the Barrier Highway
- \$545 000 in grants to councils for upgrading minor roads of tourism significance
- \$1.6 million over three years for upgrades to fishing industry marine facilities including environmental works at boat yards and slipways, the upgrading of the Fowlers Bay jetty and recreational jetty enhancements such as to the completion of the Port Augusta wharf
- \$3.4 million for ongoing maintenance of various marine facilities to improve the operations of State marine assets (eg fishing industry facilities, recreational boating facilities, commercial shipping facilities, indentured ports and navigation services)
- \$5.9 million to maintain optimum operational capacity of ferry vessels and support infrastructure

Better communications

- \$350 000 for an open request for proposal process on telecommunication services for the State Government (up-to-date city standard services are expected to become available for regional areas as well as the progressive roll out of improved data services)
- \$318 000 to replace computer systems in large country hospitals

Improved water supply and wastewater

- \$34.1 million over three years (\$8.5 million in 2001-02) for major modifications to and replacement of existing wastewater treatment plants to reduce the level of nutrients discharged to the marine environment: planned works include Finger Point, Heathfield, Millicent, Mt Burr, Nangwarry, Naracoorte, Victor Harbor treatment plants; the Angaston and Bird-In-Hand project will be completed during 2001-02
- \$6.3 million in 2001-02 to augment sections of the water supply infrastructure to meet growing demand from the Barossa Valley
- \$9.2 million to improve the quality of filtered water supply to country towns (key components include: completion of the Mount Pleasant Water Treatment Plant involving the world first technology MIEX which will dramatically improve the clarity and taste of water; extension of filtered water supply to dozens of Adelaide Hills townships and the Paringa area; lining and covering of five major storage facilities serving areas of the Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula)
- \$8.6 million over the next three years to enable the expansion of the country water supply and wastewater systems to provide new supply and accommodate regional growth (included here are works planned for the Proper Bay sewerage scheme and Keyneton water supply scheme in 2001-02)
- \$6 million to upgrade/rehabilitate existing country water supply and wastewater systems (the augmentation/upgrade of water supplies for Roseworthy, Port Wakefield, Heathfield/Bridgewater, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Bowmans, Barossa region, Victor Harbor/Goolwa and the rehabilitation of the Morgan/Whyalla pipeline)
- \$4 million in 2001-02 to continue the Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme (the Government in agreeing to an increase in annual funding (from \$3.1 million) has also committed to examine

alternative financing arrangements with the Local Government Association with the objective of expediting the program)

Security of energy supplies

- A priority placed on energy management with additional funding of \$1.29 million to increase the focus and commitment to sustainable and renewable energy
- A cross-government initiative to facilitate a new competitive supply of gas for South Australia
- \$1.7 million to operate the Electricity Supply Industry Planning Council to provide independent advice to the State Government and the South Australian Independent Industry Regulator on the state of the electricity supply industry in South Australia
- Expansion and improvement of social infrastructure to ensure better planning, coordination and integration of service delivery in such areas as housing, education and training, health and community facilities and related infrastructure in Aboriginal communities

Improved housing

- \$7.1 million to renovate 328 public houses and construct 12 new houses in various areas of the State
- \$80 000 to develop a strategy to help stimulate the market for accommodating workers and their families in regional areas undergoing strategic industry growth

Health and community facilities

- \$18.6 million for upgrading country hospitals and six aged-care facilities over the next two years
- \$3.6 million for the completion of a program of aged-care capital works in the South East of the State, at Bordertown, Kingston, Millicent, Naracoorte and Penola
- \$17 million to provide funding over three years for a range of community sporting and recreation infrastructure investment projects across the State, to focus on healthy living and build on effective prevention and health promotion programs—by assisting communities to provide sporting infrastructure, and maintain and replace existing facilities

Education and training

- \$370 000 to continue construction of the Oak Valley Aboriginal School and Child Care Facility
- \$292 000 to complete the upgrade to the science laboratories at the Wudinna Area School
- \$862 000 to commence the upgrade to the Anangu School at Amata
- \$681 000 to commence stage 2 of the redevelopment at Clare High School
- \$371 000 to complete the relocation of Cleve Preschool
- \$480 000 to commence the upgrade at the Anangu School at Fregon
- \$763 000 to commence relocation of Gordon Education Centre

- \$679 000 to commence the redevelopment at Mt Gambier East Primary School
- \$270 000 to complete the upgrade at Riverton Primary School
- \$160 000 to complete the upgrade at Victor Harbor Primary School
- \$50 000 to complete the upgrade at Kirton Point Primary School
- \$100 000 to complete the upgrade at Port Lincoln Primary School
- \$150 000 to complete payments for the new preschool/child care centre at Waikerie
- \$3.2 million to commence the upgrade at Moonta Area School
- \$778 000 to commence the upgrade at Roxby Downs Area School
- \$1 million to commence the upgrade at Angaston Primary School
- \$500 000 to commence redevelopment at Booleroo Centre Schools
- \$250 000 to commence redevelopment at Ceduna Area School
- \$2 million to commence redevelopment at Gawler Primary School
- \$1.5 million to commence redevelopment at Loxton High School
- \$1.5 million to provide new accommodation at Port Pirie Special School
- \$375 000 to complete replacement of heating systems at Mt Gambier Primary School

Justice and safety

- \$650 000 to upgrade and develop ambulance station facilities, including co-location with Country Fire Services where possible (upgrade of facilities at Murray Bridge and Berri as well as the construction/upgrade of facilities at Coober Pedy, Port Wakefield, Lucindale and Wallaroo)
- \$1.4 million to continue to upgrade and rotate ambulance fleet vehicles to achieve the most economic deployment
- \$643 000 to upgrade State Emergency Service land and sea rescue vehicles
- \$3.8 million to upgrade fire service equipment and brigade buildings
- \$50 000 to provide new appliances and equipment provisions for regional fire services

Infrastructure in indigenous communities

- \$3.3 million for maintaining power, water and effluent infrastructure in 18 remote and rural Aboriginal communities (during 2000-01, the Government approved funding for the construction of a centralised power station in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands; this \$14.3 million project (to which ATSIC and the State Government will jointly contribute \$6.65 million with the balance sourced from Greenhouse Australia) will provide more reliable power supplies that are capable of meeting growing demand, and remove existing generator plants from within community boundaries eliminating noise and diesel pollution; the State Government funding portion will be provided during the 2003-04 financial year)

- \$128 000 for the maintenance of roads on the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands
- \$615 000 for the maintenance of roads on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands as well as the replacement of capital infrastructure
- \$1 million in funding to enable Aboriginal communities to administer and manage land held under their respective Land Rights Acts

4.3. SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING

Protecting and managing the natural environment is critical to the future of regional South Australia.

A cross-government group—comprising the departments for Environment and Heritage, Primary Industries and Resources, Transport, Urban Planning and Arts, and Water Resources—has participated in the development of the Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NATREM) project. This South Australian Government initiative will support the integration of regional economic and natural resource management to achieve regional outcomes. NATREM will provide a natural resource information and capacity building service. In response to people's needs, the quality of and accessibility to existing Government data will be improved and new data developed to facilitate better planning and decision making. The NATREM service will be based on effective collaborative partnerships at the regional level and meeting people's natural resource and environmental needs with appropriate regional data.

The Government plans for the Statewide implementation of NATREM using a number of regionally based information centres, run on a cooperative basis with private sector and local government partners, linked to a centrally provided information service.

The concept of regional information centres will be tested by operating a pilot centre in the South East over two years. The Government will provide \$290 000 in 2001-02 toward the pilot. One of the expected benefits of this initiative for regional communities and companies will be coordinated training and support in the use of spatial and other information technology.

The State is faced with a number of land and water quality degradation issues that will require ongoing attention in the medium to long term. The Government will continue to fund a land management and revegetation program which facilitates and supports major revegetation schemes aimed at sustainable land management for industries and communities. In 2001-02 \$4.6 million will be allocated to this initiative.

4.4. MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Government has shown commitment to the protection of the State's water resources by drawing together the key water-related activities into one water resources portfolio, to achieve a strong, consistent and collaborative focus on all water issues.

The State is providing \$13.6 million in 2001-02 for expenditure on various programs and rehabilitation schemes to help address the impact of salinity on the environment in South Australia. The programs are part of the State's contribution to the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality which is proceeding with matching contributions from the Commonwealth Government. Major budget expenditures in 2001-02 include:

- \$4 million to match Commonwealth funds to begin implementing the South Australian River Murray Salinity Program and the South Australian elements of the Murray–Darling Basin Commission Salinity Management Strategy; funding provides for the start of work on three salinity interception schemes along the River Murray jointly funded with the Commonwealth and other participating governments

- \$1 million to match Commonwealth funds to finance the seven-year National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality in three South Australia regions: the Lower Murray, South East, and Mount Lofty Ranges–Northern Agricultural Districts; in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on the National Action Plan, interim integrated natural resources management groups are being established in these three regions
- \$6.9 million to match Commonwealth funds to proceed with a range of proposals including the rehabilitation of irrigation areas, drainage works to combat dryland salinity, revegetation programs and various research and education programs
- \$1.7 million to match Commonwealth funds and enable work to proceed with various bushcare and environmental programs as part of the National Action Plan.

The *State Water Plan 2000* was published on 6 September 2000 providing greater certainty to sustainable resources and developer property rights. The plan sets out the Government's strategic policy directions for the sustainable use and management of the State's water resources and identifies the policies and priority actions to be implemented over the next five years. The plan also provides parameters for catchment water management plans and local management plans to ensure consistent management of South Australia's water resources.

The Government has also taken an active, leading role in River Murray management and remediation. The Government will develop an environmental flow strategy for the River Murray in South Australia. This will complement the work of the Murray–Darling Basin Commission, and aim to improve the health of the Chowilla floodplain, wetlands adjacent to the River Murray and the Lower Lakes, Murray Mouth and Coorong.

The Government recognises the continuing need for assessing and analysing the condition of South Australia's water resources and for monitoring sustainable levels of water use. Opportunities will be investigated for enhancing the availability of the State's water resources through aquifer storage and recovery using reclaimed water and through assessing the potential of groundwater resources.

Major budget expenditures in 2001-02 include:

- \$31.2 million to continue implementing plans and strategies for water resources management, water allocation and salinity management; catchment water management boards will be assisted in developing catchment water management plans and water allocation plans covering the State's prescribed water resources to establish a sound, comprehensive basis for managing the State's water resources at the regional and local levels; during 2001-02, the objective is to complete and seek adoption of six water allocation plans for the prescribed wells areas of Lacepede Kongorong, Naracoorte Ranges, Comaum Caroline, Tatiara and Padthaway, and the River Murray water resources area
- \$3.7 million for the ongoing administration of the *Water Resources Act 1997* and other water management legislation; an investigations and enforcement unit has been established to investigate breaches of the Water Resources Act
- \$1.7 million to revamp the government's water licensing system to meet increased demands for water licences in prescribed areas of the State, as well as improving the reliability and accuracy of licence and levy information recorded on the system, and improving the financial management controls and management processes; the development of the new electronic, integrated licensing system will provide the basis for a 'trading floor' which will cater for the expected growth in water trading over the next few years
- \$250 000 to rehabilitate bores and bore drains in the Great Artesian Basin matched by the Commonwealth Government with landholders also providing funds to assist with these works; the rehabilitation works are expected to be completed in 2002-03

- \$12.1 million to accelerate the assessment and modelling of groundwater and surface water resources in key regions of the State to facilitate sustainable development
- \$1.5 million to assess water resources in the Mount Lofty Ranges; during 2001-02, preferred options for a stronger management regime will be developed; engagement of the community to increase awareness of the key issues and the need for more effective water resources management are an integral part of the considerations
- \$3.4 million to provide strategic and technical policy advice for and on behalf of the Minister for Water Resources on the sustainable management and development of water resources
- \$650 000 to convert water allocations from an area to a volumetric basis in the South East
- \$465 000 to expand and upgrade the groundwater monitoring network throughout the key groundwater basins within the State
- \$6.7 million to continue the refurbishment of the irrigation distribution infrastructure and upgrading of the pumps for the Loxton Irrigation District
- \$4.1 million to design and construct drainage works to alleviate land degradation due to dryland salinity in the Upper South East Drainage area
- \$3.6 million to provide training and advice on water infrastructure, rehabilitation and technology that promotes sustainable management for all the catchment areas within regions.

4.5. PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND AREAS OF CONSERVATION AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Government continues to support the conservation of our natural landscapes and species of plants and animals through the development of regional biodiversity plans. Biodiversity plans have been produced for the South East and the Murray–Darling Basin, and plans for the Northern Agricultural Districts, Eyre Peninsula, Southern Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island will be released in 2001.

The Government has demonstrated commitment to marine and estuarine conservation by establishing the Office for Coast and Marine and developing a marine and estuarine strategy for South Australia.

The 2001-02 Budget provides funding for initiatives designed to protect and enhance biological diversity and areas of conservation and heritage through:

- \$24.4 million to manage South Australia's national parks and reserves to achieve a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, including visitor education and information services (South Australia's parks and reserves cover 21 million hectares of the State)
- \$5.7 million in 2001-02 to continue the Parks Agenda with a major upgrade of the Rocky River precinct in the Flinders Chase National Park on Kangaroo Island at a cost of \$7.6 million over four financial years, 2001-02 to 2004-05, to:
 - provide visitors to Rocky River with tourism facilities and experiences of world class standard which are currently not catered for within the area
 - encourage longer visitor stays on Kangaroo Island
 - showcase the implementation of best practice development to include energy efficient and environmentally friendly principles of design, which are sensitive to the surrounding environment and landscape setting

- \$1.6 million to develop regional biodiversity plans to assist in the conservation, management and rehabilitation of habitats
- \$264 000 to continue ecological restoration projects through the Flinders Ranges Bounceback and the Ark on Eyre programs
- \$200 000 to establish visitor infrastructure and services in the newly created Gawler Ranges Park
- \$3.2 million over the next four years to improve the management of South Australia's existing and proposed marine protected areas
- \$900 000 over the next four years for marine and estuarine conservation
- \$525 000 for site verification, conservation and protection of Aboriginal heritage
- \$874 000 in 2001-02 to support the management of native forest reserves and the Friends of the Forests volunteer program
- \$250 000 to undertake a survey of remnant vegetation within the agricultural regions of South Australia
- an additional \$1.3 million over four years for heritage grants for the conservation of heritage listed places and an increased focus on heritage attractions
- a waste strategy involving the auditing of local government waste processes from source to landfill, Tidy Towns and highway litter reduction and an annual program of grants to local government for kerbside recycling
- supporting the National Packaging Covenant and National Environment Protection Measure on Used Packaging to reduce environmentally destructive waste
- collecting and destroying unwanted farm chemicals to minimise the risk to the environment and future health
- \$2.9 million to identify, manage and rehabilitate abandoned mine sites.

5. IMPROVING REGIONAL SERVICES

A key function of the State Government is to effectively deliver a range of services that people in regional South Australia rely upon.

Not only will the Government improve its focus on providing high quality services which are responsive to diverse needs but it plans to introduce new measures to help meet the challenges of living and working in regional South Australia.

Access to services in regional areas is a key factor in attracting people to live and work. The Government is committed to enhancing and improving regional access to basic services such as education and health. This will include harnessing modern technology to give people wider and more flexible access to services.

5.1. EQUITY OF SERVICES

Health and community services

The government is committed to enhancing and improving access to health services. This means providing better quality care through upgraded facilities and services, providing access to technology, attracting more professionals to the regions, and ensuring that workers in the regions are encouraged and supported in staying.

Mental health funding for country areas has been significantly extended over the last few years to reach \$4 million annually. The new funding has provided improved services, including:

- support for consumer and carer initiatives
- increased community-based mental health services
- additional assistance for children and young people
- improved services for adolescents and older men which are two high risk groups for suicide
- supported accommodation to assist people to remain in their communities
- more training for workers across the human services system including general practitioners
- opportunities for hospitals to trial new inpatient services.

Other key features that continue and/or improve services include:

- \$366.7 million for a range of services covering hospital care, community health, disabilities and aged care in regional South Australia
- \$475 000 over the next two years to develop and implement an integrated model of community support services for domiciliary care in rural areas to be piloted in the Wakefield and Mid North regions, and in Gawler (the Wakefield Mid North project will establish an integrated information and assessment process for people seeking disability, mental health, aged-care, post acute, rehabilitation and community services)
- \$19.6 million to provide a range of services to families and young people, particularly those at risk or with high and complex needs (services include assessment of concession eligibility, child protection, case management and rehabilitation, family care, management of community service orders, youth initiatives and community information)

- \$480 000 to appoint Aboriginal community development officers to work with several communities on issues raised by community councils and Aboriginal elders
- \$568 000 for early childhood intervention including additional funding of \$153 000 to increase access to a range of allied health services for children with developmental delays and their families in regional areas (speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, development assessment and behaviour therapy services will be increased; Aboriginal children and their families will receive improved services through Pika Wiya)
- \$278 000 per annum for five years to reduce the prevalence and impact of depression
- \$100 000 to fund the Statewide Aboriginal Visitors Scheme which provides visitor support to Aboriginal detainees
- \$1.3 million to operate the Supply SA warehouse in Whyalla to supply goods to government agencies, schools, hospitals and benevolent institutions
- \$42.1 million to provide public housing to regional South Australia, including customer service, support and property maintenance from a network of nine country offices
- as part of the \$75 million Government contribution to 2005-2006 for public libraries throughout the state:
 - \$1.7 million to continue funding the Public Library Access and Information Network (PLAIN) to improve the level of library services and community information through 29 public libraries
 - \$461 000 funding to improve the level of library services in 48 school communities
 - \$71 000 funding for PLAIN at 11 community information sites.

A safer community

The State Government recognises the importance of maintaining a safe working and living environment within regional South Australia.

The Government will continue to implement strategies to reduce crime through prevention and early intervention programs in partnership between police and local communities with priority placed on domestic violence, violent crime, neighbourhood watch programs and local crime prevention committees.

The budget also delivers funding of \$394 000 to expand services for victims of crime. New regional services in Mount Gambier, Berri, Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln will provide victims of crime with accessible information, counselling, practical advice and support to assist victims to recover from the effects of crime.

Regional areas also have a particular need to ensure that emergency services are able to be used as needed without unnecessary delay.

Other key features to continue and/or improve services include:

- \$65 million to provide a range of police services in regional areas including continuing the implementation of rural road safety policy initiatives and working with communities to take a problem solving approach to dealing with problem drivers and traffic hot spots; continuing the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody relating to the care of prisoners; and implementing and developing of drug action teams

- \$23.9 million for custodial services at regional prisons and \$3.7 million for community-based offender supervision at regional community correction centres
- \$31.3 million to provide a range of country fire services including suppression of wild fires, road crash rescue response, flood and special incident response, risk planning and community education and awareness
- \$5.2 million to provide regional fire services at Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Peterborough, Burra, Berri, Renmark, Loxton, Tanunda, Kapunda, Kadina, Wallaroo, Moonta, Mount Gambier, Victor Harbor and Murray Bridge
- \$15.6 million to provide emergency and elective ambulance services throughout rural South Australia
- \$3.34 million for State Emergency Service emergency incident management and prevention
- \$2.8 million for the provision of court services
- \$564 000 to provide legal support services including the development of specific educational courses for Aboriginal people residing in regional areas
- \$420 000 to local government to develop community-based crime prevention programs
- \$150 000 to prevent crime in Aboriginal communities with a focus on young people, family violence and triggers for crime such as alcohol and substance abuse
- \$10 000 to improve multicultural access to justice in administrative and other matters; justices of the peace and other suitable community contact people will be appointed to provide an information and referral service in the regions (launched in the Riverland, Port Lincoln and Coober Pedy and will be extended to other regions such as Whyalla, Port Augusta and Mount Gambier).

Consumer and business affairs

The Government will continue to protect consumers in regional areas by providing:

- \$800 000 for services relating to occupational licensing, births, deaths and marriages registration, trade measurements, incorporation of associations, tenancy matters and product safety education through five regional offices located at Mount Gambier, Berri, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Lincoln
- \$200 000 to operate Residential Tenancies Tribunal hearings in country locations
- a new and more efficient payroll tax collection regime that will provide employers with a better mix of calculation, lodgement and payment options
- \$25 000 to support a referral process and regional visits for the South Australian Ombudsman
- \$36 000 to provide routine testing of trade measurement instruments
- \$3 million to provide land and valuation services to regional South Australia from nine regional locations
- \$1.5 million to deliver industrial and workplace services in the areas of occupational health and safety and hazardous materials and plan to reduce the human and economic cost of workplace injury and disease.

Transport

The Government is committed to ensuring transport accessibility for regional communities that is efficient, safe and environmentally sound and supports economic and social development. Key features include:

- \$4 million for concessions to students, pensioners and seniors with concessional travel entitlements on country and regional bus services, an increase of \$550 000 due to the introduction of concessions for unemployed people on regional services
- \$917 000 operating subsidy provided to operators of public transport within the regional cities of Murray Bridge, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier and Port Lincoln
- \$650 000 funding for community passenger networks throughout regional South Australia assisting in providing access to transport for the transport disadvantaged
- \$152 000 to assist regional bus route operators form a marketing alliance, Bus SA, to build patronage and hence services and commercial viability
- \$4.5 million to provide regional services on road-related information, permits, rural based road safety material, road lighting and liaison with the community on specific road issues
- \$4.6 million to provide over-the-counter services for the registration of vehicles, licensing of drivers and testing of drivers and other customer services
- \$50 000 paid to the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme which administers a program of inspections of South Australian airports and training programs for aerodrome reporting officers
- \$60 000 to subsidise weekly air services to deliver mail, freight and passengers to very remote communities and stations
- \$30 000 to commission a country freight service improvement study to develop a strategy and action plan to improve freight services for businesses and communities living in rural and remote areas, particularly where such services are infrequent or where no dedicated freight services exist
- assisting the facilitation of the transfer of freight from road to rail through:
 - calling tenders for the reopening and the standardisation of the South East rail network subject to the project being commercially viable
 - financial assistance to Australian Southern Railroad to assist with the development of a new rail freight intermodal terminal at Dry Creek South.

Environment protection

An additional \$1.4 million has been provided over four years to establish a greater regional presence of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide improved environmental protection services. Many of the initiatives will allow activities to be carried out at the local level on a day-to-day basis which will enable closer communication and consultation with regional communities.

Communications

The State Government is committed to improving delivery of and access to government services using online technology. Key features of the 2001-02 Budget include:

- \$11.8 million over five years to provide a common first line service delivery point for South Australians to conduct financial transactions with government, access government related information services or receive referral for more specialised government services (Service SA will deliver a common State Government service interface through a network of shopfronts, call centre and website and provide the infrastructure for future initiatives with other levels of government)
- \$53.5 million to extend the Government's Radio Communication Network to regional areas including the Mid North and the Riverland and thereby greatly enhancing access to emergency services
- \$2 million to improve data transmission infrastructure and replace all ISDN Government PABX services in 19 country sites and improve telephone technology to service public enquiries
- \$75 000 to implement a new archival management system directly linked to the State Records website to provide a single entry point to the State's collection of official records; for people in regions it will be feasible to provide access to digitised records via the website.

Essential services

The 2001-02 Budget provides funding to subsidise essential services to regional customers to ensure price equality with the metropolitan area. Key services include:

- \$51 million to subsidise the operation and maintenance of the systems providing water and wastewater services to country areas
- \$3 million to operate 10 regional water filtration plants
- \$6.3 million to subsidise the sale of electricity in remote areas to consumers who do not have access to the State electricity grid, an increase of \$800 000 over 2000-01 funding levels.

Fisheries compliance

The fishing industry is based mainly in regional South Australia. The commercial fishing industry provides funding through licence fees for fisheries compliance services. An additional \$1 million will be allocated to the existing \$3.8 million to improve these services. Additional fisheries officers and fisheries managers will be located in more towns to provide a local compliance, community awareness and education service. A regional licence service will also be possible through increased resources. The government will also purchase a new \$1.6 million offshore patrol vessel to replace the *Tucana* to overcome limitations on fisheries compliance operations.

6. SUPPORTING ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Government is committed to help facilitate the growth of wealth and the creation of new employment opportunities in regional South Australia by encouraging industrial diversification, expanding existing industries, increasing tourist visitation, and facilitating economic development opportunities targeted at indigenous and disadvantaged communities.

Activities to increase investment, wealth and employment will build on existing strengths and capitalise on identified emerging opportunities.

Collaboration within and between communities and across all stakeholders will be an important element of this approach, and the Government recognises the importance of promoting empowerment and decision making at the local level.

6.1. EXPAND EXISTING INDUSTRY, ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENT AND FACILITATE DIVERSIFICATION

Small business

The vitality of small business is important for the State's economy but is even more important in the regions. Almost a quarter of South Australia's small businesses operate in rural areas and they are the key to jobs and prosperity.

The Government will continue funding to support the Small Business Advisory Council and the Small Business Advocate to address problems that small business has with government agencies.

The budget continues funding to support the development of small business through:

- \$715 000 funding for regional development boards to employ a business adviser whose free advisory service enables regional businesses to gain access to relevant and necessary information and advice pertinent to operating and growing small businesses
- \$60 000 continued funding for two regional development boards to employ an officer in remote locations
- \$300 000 funding administered through the regional development boards to provide small business in regional areas with up to 20 hours of human resource consultancy per business.

Farm businesses

Agricultural pursuits are the most common enterprises in the regions of South Australia and account for about 60% of the State's export earnings. The State has a Food Plan which aims to increase the value of the food industry to \$15 billion by 2010 and agricultural development is critical to achieving this objective.

Agriculture contributes significantly to the economies of most regional towns and cities and has a significant environmental impact and responsibility.

The State Government remains committed to facilitating the competitiveness of the farm business sector by providing data/information products and services, research and scientific services, trade and marketing services and training and education services. Key features include:

- \$1.1 million on field crops industry development services
- \$780 000 on cattle and intensive industry development services
- \$670 000 on fruit, vegetable and ornamental industry development services
- \$440 000 on sheep industry development services
- \$300 000 on grape industry development services.

Expenditure will also be aimed at managing the risk of pest and disease threats to the animal industry, managing the risk to industry and public health, and maintaining access to domestic and export markets within the meat industry. Key features include:

- \$2.7 million on animal health state resource regulation services
- \$1 million on road block operations
- \$860 000 for animal health industry development services
- \$530 000 on fruit fly monitoring
- \$80 000 on state quarantine inspection services and quarantine surveys
- \$30 000 on meat hygiene
- \$300 000 to implement a fish health management plan to ensure the protection of the health status of South Australia's fishing and aquaculture resources and to protect the State's aquatic biodiversity.

The State Government remains committed to funding research and development and enhancing the competitiveness of primary industries through:

- \$5 million on fisheries and aquaculture research
- \$2.7 million to support field crop research
- \$2.2 million to support horticulture research and development
- \$5.9 million on livestock, pasture and sustainable resources research
- \$1.9 million to rectify and repair the damaged seawater intake pipeline installation at the South Australian Aquatic Services Centre
- \$1.9 million over two years to co-locate the crop and biotechnology capabilities of the SA Research and Development Institute and the University of South Australia in a jointly funded intellectual property facility
- \$500 000 per annum for seven years for the establishment of a cooperative research centre on sustainable finfish aquaculture.

Funding is also provided for:

- \$500 000 over four years for the Sheep Industries Training and Research Centre
- \$500 000 over four years for the Farmer Information Centre.

Mineral resources

Resource development is a major platform for the economic development of South Australia.

The State has a Mineral Resources Plan which aims to quadruple the aggregate real value of minerals and petroleum production and processing to the State economy by 2020.

Measures funded within this budget include:

- \$1.2 million on targeted drilling and mapping exploration initiatives focusing on nickel deposits in the Musgrave Block, and gold and base metals potential in the Kanmantoo Trough and Gawler Craton
- \$3 million to stimulate the resources industry growth by addressing issues such as land access and identifying opportunities to attract new investors to the State.

Industry and enterprise improvement

While the Government has a whole of State approach to industry and enterprise improvement, there are specific initiatives funded to help improve access to these opportunities in the regions. Key features include the following:

- \$2.7 million contribution to the core operational and administrative funding for the State's 14 regional development boards
- \$210 000 discretionary funding continued to regional development boards to allow each to decide the specific needs of the region and allocate funds accordingly
- an additional \$500 000 to regional development boards for discretionary funding, training and strategic planning
- \$700 000 continued funding to the Department of Industry and Trade to help facilitate with business the retention and creation of jobs and generation of investment in regions
- \$810 000 over three years for a local industry and Aboriginal participation plan to ensure that businesses and communities are fully aware and have every opportunity to participate in the Adelaide–Darwin rail link project over the construction period; the Government will place two officers in the Adelaide and Darwin procurement offices of the railway consortium's design and construction arm to match local industry capability with tender opportunities
- approximately \$4 million will be allocated towards investment attraction and reinvestment in non-metropolitan regions
- \$4.5 million will support Bio Innovation SA which aims to build a world class bioscience industry in South Australia that develops and fosters world class research and development to commercialisation stage and attracts major biotechnology, pharmaceutical and agribusiness companies; the overall initiative is a collaborative venture between industry, South Australia's research institutes, the State Government and Commonwealth Government

- \$2.2 million will move the Food for the Future—Partners for Growth initiative into full scale implementation (the State Food Plan has been updated to accelerate the rate of growth over the next three years through focusing on four industry development priorities: innovative value adding; building regional capacity; global competitiveness and innovation; and new export development)
- \$1.7 million has been allocated to ensure the orderly and strategic development of aquaculture in coastal zones
- \$370 000 will support implementation of the new Food Act by developing a primary industry food hygiene program
- \$440 000 has been allocated to develop a food safety risk assessment program to build the verifiable system capabilities needed to maintain access to key international markets
- \$2.8 million over three years, from 2002-03 has been earmarked, to establish the Rail to Asia program implementing a suite of projects including those aimed at industry and infrastructure development, export facilitation and promotion associated with the Adelaide–Darwin rail link
- \$80 000 continued funding has been provided for four export development officers currently co-located with regional development boards in partnership with Austrade
- \$438 000 has been allocated toward the cost of establishing a national cooperative scheme for regulating gene technology
- \$1.3 million has been allocated to undertake research into improved forestry methods, promotion of the forestry industry and the encouragement of private forestry
- \$296 000 has been allocated to provide advice on policy and legislation relating to forest management and development and processing industry opportunities
- \$300 000 has been allocated to provide major projects facilitation/coordination including such projects as South Australian Steel and Energy project, SAMAG magnesium smelter and the marine ship recycling project.

Tourism

Tourism is an industry with the power to generate employment and investment in rural and regional areas. The South Australian Government has set as a priority the development and marketing of the regions. Measures in this budget include:

- \$6.7 million over three years to invest in accommodation, roads, directional and other signage, water and power provisions to benefit outback communities
- \$500 000 of infrastructure funding to increase the provision of tourism information by improving the State’s visitor information centre and through information technology mediums
- \$1 million to assist tourism business development through product development activities and servicing new enquiries and start-up businesses and/or assisting existing businesses to expand and develop their current activities
- \$3 million to improve accessibility of tourism products and to attract new hotel and accommodation developments on Kangaroo Island
- an additional \$3.9 million over two years to improve regional tourism infrastructure (major initiatives will include further development of tourism facilities at the Head of Bight in association

with the Yalata Aboriginal community and further enhancement of the ecotourism accommodation ventures in support of the Year of Ecotourism)

- \$1.9 million on regional tourism marketing which supports the 12 tourism regions.

Supplying government contracts

The Government is committed to maximising opportunities for regional businesses to supply government contracts. Key features include:

- \$21 million to provide building maintenance and minor works services through the engagement and/or project management of local contractors and suppliers
- \$650 000 in repairs and maintenance associated with regional vehicles
- \$12 million of government vehicles purchased in regional areas under a finance lease agreement; over 80 country dealerships share in the acquisition of approximately 600 vehicles per annum.

6.2. SUPPORTING AREAS FACING STRUCTURAL CHANGE

The strong regional industry recovery taking place in South Australia is not widespread. The State Government is committed to facilitating employment possibilities for people in all areas. Measures funded in this budget include:

- \$100 000 to provide a coordinating role to achieve a whole of government response, in partnership with the City of Port Augusta to improve the social and economic well-being of the Port Augusta community
- \$300 000 for training and education services to support the sustainable development of industries in the rangelands
- \$200 000 over three years for the State's contribution to the Murray Mallee Rural Plan, a program also funded by Commonwealth and local governments; the funding will enable the Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force to develop a regional strategic plan and assist in implementing priority programs.

6.3. INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The State Government will aim to encourage the further involvement of indigenous communities in economic development activities by assisting with the promotion of economic opportunities and through support for business training. Measures funded within this budget include:

- \$600 000 for the Aboriginal Apprentice Program which will target 50% of placements to businesses in rural areas
- \$3 million in vocational education and training courses to Aboriginal people in 26 study centres and 14 TAFE campuses in remote and regional areas
- \$100 000 to target the promotion of indigenous economic development in regional areas.

6.4. IMPROVING REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Employment development will continue to be a focus for the Government. The emphasis will be on sustainable employment growth through partnerships with the business and community sector in all parts of South Australia. Programs will support jobs growth in the private sector through provision of incentives with a strategic focus on key growth sectors. Tailored intensive support will be provided to vulnerable communities, through a range of strategies including local employment partnerships, community-based case management and direct financial assistance.

Chances for young people and the unemployed to access training and employment will be enhanced through targeted pre-vocational training programs and increased apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities.

The Government will support vulnerable job seekers to acquire the skills and experience necessary to gain employment. Funds will be directed to community organisations that support clients in vulnerable communities to gain employment. Funding will be allocated to place long-term unemployed Aboriginal people in temporary positions in the public and community sectors to enhance their job skills and employment opportunities.

The Vocational Education in Schools Strategy is into its second year of implementation, with most regions having developed regional strategic plans in line with the directions of the strategy. The emphasis of the strategy is on regional partnerships and the establishment of goals that lead towards collaboration of all stakeholders with the local community.

The Enterprise and Vocational Education Strategy has enabled an expansion of vocational education and training across all government schools in South Australia. In 2000, there were more than 15 600 students participating in vocational education and training which equated to approximately 1.25 million hours. These figures represent an increase of approximately 30% on 1999.

Funding within this budget includes:

- \$56.8 million for the provision of vocational education and training by TAFE institutes and other providers outside the school sector, to enable training opportunities to be expanded through apprenticeships and traineeships through a comprehensive range of training and employment programs which meet the needs of industry and individual clients
- \$2.5 million to support employment programs and initiatives targeted through the Regional Employment Strategy which enables regions to have greater autonomy in planning and initiating programs to meet the employment development needs of their area; includes additional funding of \$200 000 provided through regional development boards
- \$1.2 million to enable employment matching and brokerage support to be provided to major infrastructure projects such as the Adelaide–Darwin rail link
- Statewide employment initiatives of \$5 million in 2001-02, such as private sector initiatives and the Youth Employment Program aimed at improving employment prospects in local communities and so contributing to the local economy.

7. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Enhancing the capacity of regional communities to initiate and embrace change and to achieve their own development goals is a fundamental principle of regional development. While physical infrastructure, focused development strategies, investment and the provision of government services are essential for the economic and social growth of regional communities, the vision and energy of the people within the regions also plays a critical role.

Capacity building involves supporting communities in knowledge building, leadership skills, information and analysis, support, networking and community building to encourage the development of robust communities.

7.1. PROMOTING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL

Strong and effective leadership in all sectors and at all levels throughout regional South Australia is the key to building the future.

Measures funded within this budget include:

- \$60 000 matched by the Local Government Association and the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services to implement a community builders program in regional South Australia—a grass roots action learning process to encourage and empower regional residents to become involved in discovering and building their community and its economy
- \$46 000 for rural leadership development to provide leadership training for rural South Australians
- \$15 000 to encourage and provide rural women with the skills, motivation and information to seek an active role in addressing current and future issues affecting rural communities
- \$70 000 to undertake a training and development program for regional development board staff to enable them to undertake their regional economic development responsibilities more effectively
- \$6 million to fund a management and development program to assist sport and recreation organisations to provide leadership, direction and competition support (many of the projects will lead to improved sport and recreation services for regional South Australia and develop leadership capacity through an action learning process; the program has in the past funded the conduct of significant sporting events such as the Regional Masters Games, Mid North Games, Mini Masters Games in Port Lincoln and the Goolwa Regatta).

7.2. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The future social and economic viability of regions depends on maintaining a robust youth population.

The State Government recognises that young people have special needs which must be met if they are to remain and be attracted to the regions. Improving employment prospects for youth in local communities will be a major focus for the Government. The State Youth Employment Program will support 500 young people to find employment in their local community. An integrated youth strategy aimed at strengthening support for young people in their own community will commence in 2001-02 with regional pilot programs.

Key measures in this budget include:

- \$2.9 million to encourage regionally based public sector traineeships; the Government Youth

- Traineeship Scheme will result in the placement of 245 trainees in regional South Australia during 2001-02
- \$250 000 for the provision of programs and services to improve outcomes for youth and promote their participation in the community and involvement in decision making; for example, \$200 000 for the Active8 Premier's Youth Challenge will enable 200 young people in rural areas, between the age of 13 to 19, to participate in a range of youth development activities and \$50 000 to support National Youth Week by providing funding to local government in regional areas to stage events that showcase the talents of young people, promote their participation and celebrate youth achievement
- \$1.5 million for the Active for Life Strategy in regional areas, designed to make a contribution to the health and well-being of young people by supporting an improvement in physical education, and increased levels of physical activity through participation in sport and other physical activities
- \$60 000 to develop a program for at-risk young people, located in the Flinders Ranges, with participants being selected from across the State
- \$500 000 funding for a strategy which aims to attract people in the younger working-age bracket to South Australia through targeted promotion of the State and development of a tailored service which provides information and access to job opportunities; it is hoped that this strategy will help redress skill shortages
- funding for country athlete awards which aim to assist junior athletes aged between 14 and 18 from rural areas to achieve their sporting potential through access to elite coaching, training and resources therefore increasing their opportunity to compete at high levels.

7.3. BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

The State Government understands the need to encourage a sense of identity or a shared sense of community to develop healthy and sustainable communities. Research indicates that significant community development only takes place when local people are committed to investing in the effort.

It is well recognised that communities that feel empowered to contribute actively to addressing their challenges and define their futures are more self-reliant. The State Government will aim to develop the capacity of regional communities to plan for and manage their own futures by funding:

- \$500 000 to initiate a new major program called Building a Stronger Regional South Australia, which will encourage rural revitalisation through local community action, focused on assisting communities to use their capabilities and assets to maintain or enhance local development opportunities and improve their quality of life
- \$700 000 to continue the Working Towns program, which is a business development initiative that provides funding support to innovative community-based projects, aimed at stimulating local economies, improving employment growth and business performance
- \$100 000 to support the development of vibrant sustainable learning communities in a range of regions throughout South Australia
- \$6.2 million over four years to introduce specific new support and promotion services to develop and enhance the volunteer community at all levels and to encourage even greater involvement and contribution from the community; strategic policy advice and program recommendations have been bolstered through the establishment of a permanent Office for Volunteers and a Volunteers Round Table

- \$250 000 to continue the Port Augusta Families Project to encourage empowerment, participation and partnership arrangements with families facing multiple problems; the project has been effective in preventing children being placed into alternative care, reducing family debt, improving the health of adults and children, decreasing reliance on health care systems and increasing stability in accommodation
- \$800 000 over two years to stimulate adoption of the internet by regional South Australian communities by providing every citizen with access to an e-mail address and a personal portal containing relevant local, state and global internet content; SA Connect will enable citizens to create viable online communities in which they can publish and exchange information
- country seminars to increase participation in recreation and sport by assisting clubs and associations to be better run and better managed; starting in 2001, each region in the State will be visited.

7.4. DEVELOPING SKILLS AND THE PATHWAY TO JOBS

The Government is committed to ensuring regional people have access to flexible training and education, within broad guidelines, to develop tailor-made programs for local communities. Greater flexibility assists regional communities to develop educational and training programs which are better informed by the needs of local economies and their people.

Partnerships 21 is progressively providing greater opportunities for community partnerships through local school management and 75% of all sites across the state (226 preschools and 458 schools) were participating in Partnerships 21 at the start of 2001. A further 229 schools and preschools have indicated that they will enter this program in 2002.

Educators from schools and children's services began using South Australia's new curriculum for planning and programming from 2001 with full implementation to be achieved by 2002. Enterprise skills and vocational learning have been integrated in the new curriculum so that all students have a broad understanding of work and develop a range of generic skills, understandings and attributes for lifelong learning. This learning incorporates the elements of enterprise education which involves the development of enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

The Vocational Education in Schools strategy has resulted in dramatic demand for vocational education and training. Participation has increased from 12 000 students in 1999 to more than 15 600 in 2000, an increase of 30%.

The Government will continue to support strategies to reinvigorate the teaching profession through professional development and to maintain a motivated, skilled workforce of teachers who can equip students to operate successfully in a complex and changing social and economic environment, and who maximise the use of technologies in their teaching.

The Government will advance the use of technology to improve delivery of education services in country South Australia and expand the choice and quality of programs for rural and remote students. Global Discovery Schools, working with the Technology School of the Future, are investigating ways in which online learning can bridge the isolation barriers. All students aged 6 to 16 years will receive an education that integrates the use of information technology and telecommunications, and will leave school with an industry recognised information technology qualification.

The Government will improve pathways and options for rural students through enterprise and vocational education, which includes the development of a country-based vocational college. The Government will expand rural care programs and greater access to family day care for Aboriginal families.

The budget provides \$490 million to deliver education services within regional South Australia comprising \$473 million in operating expenditure and \$17 million in capital investment funding to upgrade and improve education facilities. Key features include:

- \$16 million for the provision of early childhood education through preschools and child parent centres to build foundations for learning and living
- \$388.5 million for the provision of education in government schools from reception to year 12
- \$56.8 million for the provision of vocational education and training by TAFE institutes and other providers outside the school sector
- \$10 million for the provision of child care incorporating centre-based care, family day care, out of school hours care and occasional care, to enable planning and development for new services, industry training, curriculum materials, support and information to parents and staff working in child care centres
- \$3 million for the delivery of vocational education and training courses to Aboriginal people.

The Government also aims to build the skills of people in the regions. Measures funded in 2001-02 include:

- \$450 000 over the next two years for the operation of Networks for You, an internet awareness program for rural and regional people in partnership with the Commonwealth and local government, to make rural communities aware of the opportunities of the internet in their business and private lives and to create interest to participate in the information economy; the project is enhanced by partnerships with libraries, councils, regional development boards, telecentres, community centres and neighbourhood houses that have joined as NetWorks centres
- \$3.8 million to complete the first FarmBis program aimed at promoting continuing education, training and learning in management skills, information and practices for farmers and others involved in farm management
- an additional commitment of up to \$8 million (including Commonwealth matching funding) for the new FarmBis program to assist farmers and fishers to improve skills in business and natural resource management.

7.5. IMPROVING CULTURE AND LEISURE OPTIONS

The Government recognises that all people in regional South Australia need improved opportunities to engage in cultural and leisure activities. These activities are significant in developing the sporting and creative skills of people in our regions

Measures funded within this budget include:

- \$600 000 in grant funding to support regional festivals and events
- facilitating the development of a State recreation and sports strategy through developing plans in regions across the State to provide direction on issues such as quantity, quality, distribution and demand for regional facilities and services, club management, sports tourism and open space development opportunities.
- \$1.7 million to maintain and upgrade the recreational trails network in South Australia including an extensive safety audit to ensure trails meet Australian standards

- \$1.9 million to continue regional facilities grants to develop and upgrade recreation and sport facilities
- \$1.8 million to provide financial assistance through the Active Club grants to sport and recreation clubs at a community level
- \$45 000 to establish a network of local contacts to work closely with regional recreation and sport providers, local government and other key agencies to promote and coordinate the implementation of government programs/initiatives that aim to:
 - establish structures that support the development of recreation and sport
 - assist providers to further develop their organisations and the programs and services they provide to their community
 - increase community participation in those programs
- \$480 000 to continue VacSwim which provides instruction in all aspects of water safety and swimming for young South Australians
- \$25 000 to provide a range of sporting initiatives to encourage and inspire indigenous athletes to achieve a high level in their sport
- \$150 000 contribution to the improvement of regional museums to the History Trust of SA including funding towards the operation of the National Motor Museum in Birdwood and funding for the museum accreditation and grant program (the History Trust is coordinating three networking projects in 2001-02 involving regional museums and historical societies across the regions: Sharing their Legacy involving a series of exhibitions in 17 museums and historical societies; South Australia Wet and Dry involving seven museums cooperating to produce a series of exhibitions on aspects of environmental history; and a touring exhibition, part of the Encounter 2002 program, which will tour 11 regional centres)
- \$3.6 million funding to Country Arts for the provision of art and cultural services across regional South Australia (in 2001-02 Country Arts will: provide arts grants to support regionally based communities in developing community-based arts projects and events; through a comprehensive series of touring programs, deliver approximately 12 performing arts tours and 20 touring exhibitions of contemporary visual arts and craft; and, in a unique partnership with the Commonwealth and State governments, provide training workshops specifically designed to assist country based arts volunteers to develop new skills)
- \$1.3 million in support of the operation of major performing arts centres situated in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Renmark and Mount Gambier
- \$159 000 contribution to the Barossa Music Festival
- \$150 000 for grant funding to develop and improve cultural facilities
- \$128 000 contribution for main street theatre performances
- \$20 000 to assist South Australian performing arts companies to tour regional areas
- \$215 000 to promote good health through sponsorship of activities of South Australia's arts and cultural organisations and community groups throughout the State
- \$1.2 million to support the community use of forest reserves for recreation—an estimated 225 000 recreational visits annually—by completing facilities in 2001-02 to help visitors appreciate the natural features of the native forests in the South East and taking a coordinated approach with other agencies to develop the Greater Mount Lofty Ranges parklands.

8. PROMOTING THE REGIONS

A comprehensive understanding of regional issues, economic performance and directions is a powerful tool for regions in marketing their strength and opportunities to investors.

The Government is committed to understanding the needs and priorities of people in regional areas and fostering the development of regional South Australia. The future cohesion and prosperity of the State is dependent to a great extent on the economic, cultural and social well-being of regional communities. There is also a need for greater acknowledgment of the contribution made by regional areas to the State's economic and social development and stronger marketing of the potential for development.

8.1. RECOGNISING THE CONTRIBUTION

Through the collection of new regional statistics including input-output modelling on regional economic development and by initiation of the South Australian Food Industry Scorecard, the Government has a better appreciation of the contribution made by regional areas to the State's economic and social development. Key measures in this budget include:

- \$835 000 to support major regional events and projects for the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001-02 in South Australia including Connecting the Continent, a major regional event focusing on information technology; Federation Roadshow—A History, A Mystery, A Birdseye View which outlines the history of Federation and its impact on the lives of South Australians; Source To Sea, a three State project designed to celebrate the role of the River Murray and to highlight issues of future management; Tracks to Federation—the East West Rail Commemoration to celebrate the role of transport and communications in the development of the nation; and Celebration of 100 Years of Food and Fibre Since Federation to recognise and celebrate the role of the food and fibre industries in the economic development of South Australia
- \$400 000 as grants to support communities across the State to plan their own celebrations and participate locally in the commemoration of the Centenary of Federation
- \$76 000 as an allocation to agricultural societies to support rural shows
- \$80 000 for displays at farm expositions, field days and show exhibits
- \$30 000 sponsorship to SA Great to continue the highly successful regional awards program within its successful SA Great Awards
- ongoing promotion of regional success in the *Directions* magazine and TV series.

8.2. MARKETING THE CAPABILITIES AND POTENTIAL

During 2000-01 the Government updated and released *The Case for Regional South Australia* to communicate a clear and coherent picture of a highly productive and competitive State. Maximising the reach and impact of this marketing tool will require a whole of government approach and strong promotion by regional development boards.

The Government's award winning Secrets campaign has been further expanded into South East Queensland markets including Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. The Shorts program has been expanded to boost intrastate tourism. Key features in this budget include:

- an additional \$1 million allocated to bolster tourism marketing efforts encouraging more South Australians to take a holiday in their own backyard and improve regional dispersion of Adelaidians and their visiting friends and relatives by expanding the new intrastate Secrets

campaign, reinvigorating the Shorts intrastate marketing campaign and developing regional websites

- \$1.2 million to implement major events and marketing activity associated with the Year of the Outback 2002 focusing on the outback, the Flinders Ranges and the Eyre Peninsula
- ongoing promotion of regional projects and uniqueness through the Government's general investment website <www.business.sa.gov.au> and continued distribution of *The Case for Regional South Australia*.

8.3. PROMOTION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Government recognises that regional people need to be involved and informed of government decisions. Central to this commitment is the reporting of the Government's budget and its impact on regional development and progressive reporting of the Government's response to regional issues and opportunities.

The State Government, through the Regional Development Council, has set out a clear and comprehensive course for the ongoing development of regional South Australia. *Directions for Regional South Australia* was released in early 2001 and its implementation is a high priority.

Measures in this budget include:

- \$100 000 to regularly produce *Regional Review* supplements for insertion into all regional newspapers, to communicate various government actions, initiatives and programs that have enhanced the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of regional South Australia
- \$31 000 to update a video presentation to communicate information to regional communities about regional projects and initiatives.

9. GOVERNMENT WORKING AS ONE

The State Government has built, and will maintain, a significant role in regional issues. We have implemented a whole of government approach to delivering programs and services through the establishment and efforts of the Office of Regional Development, the Regional Development Council and its Issues Group and the release of *Directions for Regional South Australia*. Community Cabinets have also become great 'listening and learning posts' for this Government and have shown great results through agency collaboration and coordination.

Recognising the diversity of regional communities, the Government has become more flexible in its approach to addressing regional issues. It is working towards developing partnerships that engage all spheres of government, communities and business to meet the challenges that face people living in regional South Australia.

9.1. WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Improved whole of government arrangements have been developed to anticipate, plan, coordinate and implement initiatives and responses to strategic policies and programs that impact on regional development. The Regional Development Council and Office of Regional Development act as a voice for regions and advocate for a whole of government approach to strategic issues. These bodies have been successful in coordinating relevant agencies on a range of strategic regional development matters.

The Government strongly holds the view that regional South Australia needs the sustained support of all spheres of government to help create opportunity and prosperity.

Partnerships between the State Government and Commonwealth and local government are being developed through a high level Ministerial Council comprising State and Commonwealth Ministers with responsibility for regional development, and the Australian Local Government Association. Intergovernmental working groups have been established as required to explore ways of achieving practical outcomes through improved levels of cooperation and collaboration.

The Government will continue its funding of \$750 000 for these new governance arrangements.

The Department of State Aboriginal Affairs has a significant role in the development of cooperation between agencies and coordination of effort in the delivery of programs and services to the Aboriginal community and monitoring the effectiveness of delivering those services. Government provides this support by assisting with funding consultative groups such as the Aboriginal Women's Statewide Advisory Council, the Council of Aboriginal Elders and the South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Advisory Committee. Funding of around \$190 000 will be provided to continue this role in 2001-02.

9.2. FACILITATING LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Government agencies have reviewed their operations to determine if there can be greater decentralisation of decision making to the regional level. Difficulties in attracting and retaining staff in regionally based positions was identified as the single most pressing impediment to maintaining and increasing decentralised services. Steps have been taken to identify ways to overcome this shortage.

Continuing from 2000-01, the State/Local Government Partnerships program will see State and local governments work together to find ways to link their forward planning and to improve service provision to communities.

The State Government will continue to maintain and develop legislative and policy frameworks for local government and administration throughout the State. Specific initiatives of benefit to regional South Australia in 2001-02 include:

- \$100 000 to develop an electronic citizen's guide to local government in South Australia to provide all local governing bodies and citizens rights and remedies, complementing moves by the local government sector to extend access to the internet throughout the State
- \$100 000 to continue to help small councils to implement the Government's legislative and functional reform agenda
- \$110 000 to support the Outback Area Community Development Trust.

The Government recognises that people in regional South Australia are proud of the communities in which they live and they are keen to 'build upon', not necessarily change, the things they have achieved together. Integrated Local Community Planning is a framework that reinforces and builds upon existing structures in health, housing and community services. The goal is to remove blockages, make sustainable improvements and for services to meet the needs of communities in flexible, creative and effective ways. Consultation with community groups is essential to this process.

Integrated human service delivery systems for Aboriginal people in Port Augusta, Ceduna and Coober Pedy are under way and will continue to be funded in 2001-02. Key initiatives include:

- \$439 000 to collaborate with the Coober Pedy community to develop a coordinated community strategy addressing alcohol and substance abuse and associated problems
- \$160 000 to integrate community planning and the accommodation and service needs of transient and homeless Aboriginal people in and around Ceduna
- \$100 000 to provide a whole of government response in partnership with the City of Port Augusta to improve social and economic well-being of Port Augusta citizens
- \$40 000 to provide partial funding grants to councils to undertake suitable projects to better define the role of centres and promote a broader range of functions within regional centres/zones.

9.3. ENCOURAGING LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

The Government holds community Cabinet meetings every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the year. Eleven community Cabinet meetings were held throughout 2000 in both regional and metropolitan areas. The meetings give members of the community the opportunity to meet with the Premier, Ministers and Chief Executives and to raise issues of concern. The State Government also has the opportunity to inform members of regional communities of its broad directions. In 2001, 15 community Cabinet meetings are expected to be held for \$300 000.

The Government, through the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Council, convenes three advisory committees comprising service providers and representatives of culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The advisory committees identify ethnic issues as well as regional issues in general which the council brings to the attention of the Government.

9.4. ENHANCED PLANNING AND COORDINATION AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

Comprehensive planning at the regional level is fundamental in guiding the growth and development of the State so that regional differences are considered.

The Government will continue to provide proponents and the community with an integrated clear and effective development assessment framework through amendments to Development Plans. During 2001-02 Development Plan amendments (zoning changes) will continue with expenditure of \$1.1 million through consultation and public consideration. Emerging issues for 2001-02 are Development Plan amendments relating to salinity issues along the River Murray and water resource management.

The *Development Act 1993* establishes a planning and development assessment system for dealing with development proposals. Significant and ongoing reform of the system is required to ensure it is up to date, relevant, easily understood, and integrated with other legislative mechanisms. The System Improvement Program began in 1999-2000 and is continuing with expenditure of \$466 000. In 2001-02, highlights will include:

- legislative integration with possible Integrated Natural Resource Management Legislation
- improved arrangements for building safety inspections
- publication of a number of advisory bulletins assisting regional development, in particular, a proposed rural planning bulletin in 2001-02 to provide advice on establishing regional industries and continue an initiative started in 1999-2000 on introducing performance-based approaches to development policies with an emphasis on horticulture, forestry, piggeries and cattle feedlots
- publication of planning bulletins on topics such as wind farms, frost fans, horse keeping, and a general environment enhancement and protection bulletin.

The assessment of development applications on behalf of the Development Assessment Commission in regional areas and major development proposals on behalf of the Minister and the Governor will continue during 2001-02 with expenditure of \$1.7 million. It also includes the function of monitoring and enforcing approvals granted. In addition, educational packages will be developed to increase the awareness of prospective developers in out-of-council areas on efficient lodgement of applications so that approval times are kept to a minimum.

The Government will continue to support community leaders in the outback to facilitate the co-location of government agencies to enhance coordination and delivery of services to the outback areas. This concept known as Outback SA will be implemented in stages over a three-year period.

The Government is providing assistance and direction for a number of regional area transport plans across the State. The South East 2020 Transport Strategy was completed in May 2000, and a number of other plans are in progress or at proposal stage. Government's involvement in these plans ensures they are integrated, where appropriate, with other strategies/policies.

The Government continues to work closely with Aboriginal people, the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, the South Australian Farmers Federation and the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy to explore whether Indigenous Land Use Agreements can be developed as an alternative to resolving native title issues through the courts. If successful, this will allow for native title issues to be resolved sooner and at lower cost, resulting in greater certainty about land use and a more positive climate for future relationships. In this budget the Government has allocated \$9.1 million to enable greater harmony and understanding in all areas of the South Australian community on access to land and its resources which may be subject to a native title claim.

9.5. ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF SKILLED WORKERS

The Government will continue to support strategies to attract and retain skilled professionals within regional South Australia. Key features in this budget include:

- continued funding to the Rural Health Enhancement Package which provides doctors with enhanced hospital fee-for-service payments in return for their commitment to a series of best practice and continuous improvement initiatives
- continued funding to the South Australian Rural and Remote Medical Support Agency to coordinate activities and strategies to help recruit and retain doctors in rural South Australia such as:
 - university rural clubs that provide a focus for students wishing to practise medicine in the country when they qualify
 - a combined rural clubs project to encourage country high school students to consider a medical career in the country
 - a project to assist medical students and graduates gain valuable experience through placements with experienced country doctors
 - scholarships for undergraduates
 - schemes to assist rural doctors access training programs and continuing medical education
 - provision of locum relief
 - recruitment of overseas trained doctors to fill vacancies
- continued funding for a project to recruit overseas trained doctors to assist in overcoming the overall shortage of doctors in regional South Australia
- continued funding for the Rural Education Scholarship program
- \$13 million to provide commercial office accommodation and residential housing infrastructure for government agencies and their employees in regional areas
- \$500 000 to renovate the Roxby Downs council office and community service facilities
- \$500 000 annual subsidy to the Roxby Downs Council to ensure adequate community services are available for residents
- \$400 000 to recruit and train volunteer ambulance officers from country locations to maintain adequate services in over 60 regional locations
- \$1 million as small grants to assist community organisations in providing services and support to members of their community.

