

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT HON DAVID BASHAM MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional investment to support recovery and create jobs

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing more than \$875 million in the 2021-22 State Budget for new measures to better the lives of people living in regional South Australia by building key regional and community infrastructure, supporting economic growth and creating jobs.

This new funding takes the Marshall Liberal Government's total investment in regional South Australia to close to \$4 billion since coming to government.

The State Budget in 2021-22 includes \$786.4 million in new funding over the forward estimates for major upgrades to regional roads, highways and transport infrastructure, including:

- \$202 million over three years to construct a bypass of the Truro Township and Accommodation Hill on the Sturt Highway
- \$100 million to complete the next stage of the duplication of the Augusta Highway from near Nantawarra to Lochiel, plus an additional \$80 million for the first stage, bringing the total first stage funding to \$160 million
- \$60 million to undertake further work on the Heysen Tunnels, bringing the total project to \$75 million
- \$40 million for upgrades to key Kangaroo Island road corridors that will improve tourism routes, enhance bushfire resilience and improve freight access to ports
- \$36 million to refurbish the old Murray Bridge

Fruit fly eradication will receive \$33.3 million additional investment over two years to help tackle outbreaks in metropolitan Adelaide and the Riverland, to protect South Australia's horticulture industry and the thousands of jobs it supports. The Government has also provided \$1.2 million over three years to meet South Australia's commitment towards national pest eradication responses.

SA's agriculture sector will get an \$18.7 million boost in the State Budget 2021-22 across a range of new initiatives to help support economic recovery, grow the industry and create local jobs.

Our wine industry will benefit from more than \$5 million worth of new initiatives to help deal with significant challenges in recent years, firstly with bushfires, then COVID-19 restrictions and now trade market disruptions. \$1 million over four years has also been allocated to support the South Australian Wine Industry Association to deliver industry development services to the wine sector.

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Mobilising a seasonal workforce to address labour shortages facing regional employers in key sectors affected by COVID-19 is provided with \$8.3 million over two years.

Providing quality health care to the regions is a priority for the Marshall Liberal Government with \$46.7 million invested in 2021-22 for major upgrades, including the Mount Barker Hospital emergency department, Port Augusta Ambulance Station and Strathalbyn Aged Care.

A new public hospital in the Barossa is one step closer with \$6 million in the Budget to complete a detailed business case, acquire land and commence early works.

To provide regional children every opportunity to achieve their best in life, the State Budget invests \$115.6 million in major capital projects at schools and preschools in 2021-22, as the Government works to overcome the backlog of maintenance in our schools. Projects include the replacement of existing learning areas at Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School at Langhorne Creek campus and relocation of the Elliston Kindergarten to the Elliston Area School.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham said the Marshall Liberal Government is committed to building what matters, backing business and creating jobs in regional South Australia.

“Our Budget for a stronger South Australia is creating jobs, building what matters and delivering better services to further secure our state’s growing global reputation as one of the safest and most attractive places in the world to live, work and raise a family,” said Minister Basham.

“Our Regions Matter - contributing around \$29 billion per year to the South Australian economy across a range of industries including farming, fishing, mining, manufacturing and tourism.

“This is why the Marshall Liberal Government is investing more than \$875 million in the State Budget 2021-22 in regional South Australia to build key infrastructure, drive economic growth and create jobs.

“This takes our total investment in regional South Australia since coming to government to almost \$4 billion across more than 1,000 projects to better the lives of people right across the state, not just metropolitan Adelaide.

“We are investing record amounts in regional infrastructure including roads so people can travel faster and safer, hospitals to provide better healthcare, schools to inspire our next generations and community space for people to enjoy.

“Many farmers across South Australia have had a challenging few years, firstly with drought, bushfires and then the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this Budget continues to provide support while better preparing for the future.

“These investments support the Marshall Liberal Government’s recently released South Australian-first Regional Development Strategy which recognises the importance of our regions to the state economy and identifies key areas to focus on to help deliver key projects and create local jobs.

“This is in stark contrast to the former Labor government who ignored our regions for 16 years.”