Regions in Focus
Eyre and Western

11 councils

Population: 58,555

Size: 232,781 square kilometres

Employment: 24,815

Unincorporated West Coast

Maralinga Tjarutja Lands and Yalata Aboriginal Reserve

Gross Regional Product: $4.10b

1/3 of SA’s coastline

Eyre Peninsula

Australia’s Seafood Frontier

82% of SA’s seafood product exporting globally

Southern Bluefin Tuna, marine finfish, oysters, mussels, abalone

Whyalla

Industrial and mining services hub

45% of SA’s Iron & Steel Manufacturing

Mining fastest growing industry

40% of SA’s wheat crop

24% of SA’s barley crop
This document is a contribution to the ongoing conversation on the opportunities and priorities of the Eyre and Western region. It highlights the strengths of the region to inform people’s thinking about the future, and outlines opportunities where we can all work together to grow the region’s economy and make it an even better place to live, work and visit.

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

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

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

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

**ECONOMIC PRIORITIES**

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

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

- Build the capacity of the region’s communities to foster a cohesive and diverse culture, strong civic leadership and high quality of family life
- Facilitate and support growing and diverse enterprises to increase economic activity
- Foster innovative, globally competitive businesses in the region
- Promote business investment in the region
- Optimise international trade
- Increase our regional population
- Attract and retain a highly skilled workforce to meet existing and future needs of the region.
- Promote flexible access to education and skills training programs and facilities to strengthen the regional workforce
- Attract investment for strategic infrastructure to support the long-term growth of the region
- Facilitate the recognition and preservation of community amenity assets for present and future generations

**KEY STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Huge, high quality mineral wealth**

- Heavy mineral sands, iron ore, copper, gold, uranium, zinc, nickel and graphite

**Increasing productivity of grain and livestock through constantly improving farming practices**

**Maralinga Tjarutja Lands**

- Previous nuclear testing site presenting cultural tourism opportunities

**Research and educational establishments**

- Including Minnipa Agriculture Centre, Lincoln Marine Science Centre, UniSA Whyalla Campus, Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy, TAFE SA

**World-class renewable energy resources**

- Wind, solar, wave, biofuels

**Opportunities to build on culinary and indigenous tourism**

**Internationally iconic tourism assets**

- Great Australian Bight, Lincoln and Coffin Bay National Parks, Gawler Ranges

**Massive growth in cruise ship tourism**

- 450 in 2013, 18,500 in 2015

**World recognised tourism activities**

- Eyre Peninsula Seafood Trail, cage diving with Great White Sharks, tuna and sealions, whale watching, snorkelling with Australian Giant Cuttlefish and other sea animals

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

**Investing in the future prosperity of Eyre and Western**

### Private Investment


Some examples of businesses investing in the region include:

- **Jacinth Ambrosia Mineral Sands Mine**
  Exports approximately 300,000 tonnes of zircon product per annum via the Port of Thevenard.

- **Muradel**
  Growing, harvesting and processing micro algae for the production of kerogen, from which green crude is made.

- **Lukin Quays**
  Upgrade of existing wharf, complemented by a new industrial precinct, shopping centre and two housing estates.

- **Lincoln Cove Marina**
  Marina expansion will take in land on the southern side of Marina Drive.

### Government Investment

$19.2 million investment in the Eyre and Western region is identified in the 2015-16 State Budget.

Some other examples of where Government is investing in the region include:

- **Regional development grants**
  Over $5.5m in regional development grants was awarded to Eyre and Western businesses between 2010-11 and 2014-15.
  Examples include E&A Contractors’ Whyalla facility expanding its operations into the fabrication and manufacture of wind towers and upgrades to the Whyalla and Port Lincoln airports.

- **Health**
  A $39.2m redevelopment of the Port Lincoln Hospital has been funded by the Australian Government, plus construction of a $500,000 chemotherapy unit. The State Government has funded the construction of an $800,000 renal unit.
  A $69m redevelopment of the Whyalla Hospital, funded by the Federal and State Governments, includes new rehabilitation and mental health units and on-site accommodation for travelling patients. It also features a new Regional Cancer Centre, the largest in rural South Australia.

- **Tourism**
  The development of ‘Brand Eyre Peninsula’, aimed at increasing visitors and boosting economic performance of the food and tourism industries, has been supported by the State Government.