REGIONS IN FOCUS
Far North

4 councils +
OUTBACK COMMUNITIES AUTHORITY

$4.02b
Gross Regional Product

$4.02b
MINERAL WEALTH

80% of SA’s land mass

APY remote Aboriginal lands

TOURISM ICONS
Flinders Ranges AND THE OUTBACK

80% of the world’s precious opal mined

Port Augusta
GATEWAY TO THE OUTBACK

APY
POPULATION 29,479

SIZE 799,850 square kilometres

EMPLOYMENT 24,412

Most of SA’s mining industry & largest mine, Olympic Dam

Major source of SA’s mineral wealth

Large pastoral properties
exporting beef and sheep

Moomba Gas and Petroleum for 50+ years

Port Augusta
GATEWAY TO THE OUTBACK

Woomera Test Range & Cultana Army Training Area

defence

Moomba

Tourist tracks
BIRDSTONE, OODNADATTA, STRZELECKI
This document is a contribution to the ongoing conversation on the opportunities and priorities of the Far North 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 the Far North are priorities one, two, five, six, seven 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**

- Encouraging the establishment of new transport services and infrastructure
- Capitalising on installation of National Broadband Network
- Business support and growth
- Indigenous engagement, support and development
- Environmental sustainability including climate change and green power
- Strengthen regional partnerships and provide regional leadership
- Incorporate a strategy for meaningful and ongoing employment in the region

**KEY STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges, Wiljira, Coongie Lakes and Ranges National Parks
- Renewable energy resources, particularly solar and geothermal
- Strong industry capability and capacity and supporting industry
- Supportive training infrastructure for the mining sector – High School Trade Centre, TAFE, private providers operating in the region
- APY Lands Opportunities for Indigenous employment, such as North West Pastoral project
- Existing and developing major mines – Olympic Dam, Prominent Hill (copper), Moomba (gas), Beverly (uranium)
- Sundrop Farms $150 million desal-solar arid horticulture development. Global leader in this R&D
- Anna Creek the world’s largest working cattle station 24,000km²
- APY Lands Opportunities for Indigenous employment, such as North West Pastoral project
- Strategic transport location Port Augusta is the cross roads of Australia
- World-class tourism Flinders Ranges and Outback
- Indigenous heritage presents opportunities in cultural & environmental tourism
- Wilpena Pound Indigenous owned Cultural, environmental, geological tourism
- Opening of Woomera Prohibited Area to mining exploration
- Enormous resource wealth in minerals, petroleum and gas
- Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group providing a more strategic vision for USG cities
- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden
- Significant existing heavy industry capability and capacity and supporting industry
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 the Far North

PRIVATE INVESTMENT

$17.3 billion worth of investment in the Far North region is identified in the 2014-15 Major Projects Development Directory for projects with capital expenditure of more than $1 million. This includes Beach Energy’s and Santos’ Cooper Basin developments and Lincoln Gap Wind Farm (www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/mdd).

Some other examples of businesses investing in the region include:

**Sundrop Farms**
Investment of $150m in one of the world’s first solar-desal greenhouses. The facility will supply Coles with truss tomatoes in a virtually chemical-free, low-input environment. Sundrop Farms will locate its global research and development centre at Port Augusta. The State Government has provided $6m to this project through the Regional Development Fund.

**Eco Motel Port Augusta**
New accommodation facility established with principles of environmental and social responsibility.

**Coober Pedy Outback Bar & Grill**
Renovation and upgrade of the Shell service station includes the establishment of a new restaurant and bar to service locals and tourists alike.

**Wilpena Pound Resort**
Luxury safari tent accommodation offering an authentic Outback experience.

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

$39.8 million investment in key regional projects and new initiatives in the Far North is identified in the 2015-16 State Budget.

Some other examples of Government investing in the region include:

**Regional development grants**
Over $7.8m in regional development grants was awarded to Far North businesses between 2010-11 and 2014-15, including upgrades to the Quorn Memorial Swimming Pool and the Port Augusta airport.

**Infrastructure**
Projects include – new terminal facilities for the Port Augusta airport; widening and resealing of the Coober Pedy airport; upgrade of the Port Augusta Central Oval; replacement of 12km of pipeline to secure water to Coober Pedy; provision of solar panels on 10 council buildings in the Flinders Ranges Council, as well as solar street lights.

**Tourism**
Upgrade of the Stuart Range Coober Pedy Caravan Park with new accommodation facilities to a four and a half star standard.

**Employment and Training**
Projects includes: new facility refurbishment for civil construction training at the Davenport community through Civil Train; training Aboriginal workers for the pastoral sector.

**Biosecurity**
Construction of a $3.8m national Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) Facility in Port Augusta, funded by the Government of South Australia with an $800,000 contribution from Horticulture Innovation Australia.