

Water for community: Water for environment

The Strathalbyn Racing Club plans to become a major training and racing centre now its racing surfaces and associated areas can be properly irrigated through a \$600,000 treated-grey-water irrigation scheme.

Strathalbyn is the fourth largest training centre of the State – but the club's development has been hampered by irrigation water costs. Its long-term viability is now assured. Better facilities will encourage trainers – including metropolitan trainers – to locate in the area.

Township residents will benefit through upgraded effluent treatment facilities taking most of the town's wastewater through an aerobic treatment plant. Additional employment in racing (veterinarians, farriers), retail, farming and services will boost the regional economy, with an increased need for fencing supplies, agistment facilities, lucerne, cereal hay and chaff. A 1 ha wetlands will be constructed – and additional treated water will be on-sold for farms, vineyards and dairy expansion.

THE FLEURIEU BOARD CHAMPIONED THE PROJECT AND DEVELOPED THE FUNDING SUBMISSION, WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RACING ORGANISATIONS.

KI calling

Kangaroo Island residents and visitors can now use mobile phones on the south of the island with the installation of two CDMA base stations that have tripled mobile phone coverage on the Island.

These telecommunication improvements along the principal tourist routes are a boost for tour operators and tourists and local residents can now conduct their business more professionally and efficiently.

THE KANGAROO ISLAND BOARD SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE BASE STATIONS. COSTS WERE SHARED BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT.

Housing and transporting the regional workforce

Lack of housing impacts on the ability of a region to attract and retain workers. Additional vineyard plantings and increased production in local meatworks along the Limestone Coast have stretched accommodation in the area.

There's a lack of housing in several SA regions where economies have been restructured with more labour-intensive and value-adding industries. Despite the increased economic activity, real estate investors have not responded to workforce accommodation needs.

THE LIMESTONE COAST BOARD IDENTIFIED THIS PROBLEM AND INITIATED ACTION – A REGIONAL WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATIONS STUDY. FUNDING HAS BEEN SOURCED AND A CONSULTANT APPOINTED TO FOCUS ON TWO REGIONS: THE SOUTH EAST AND MURRAYLANDS. THE REPORT WILL ASSIST PLANNING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND GUIDELINES SHOULD HELP OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES. THE OUTCOME IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE HOUSING FOR THE REGION'S WORKFORCE.

Selling the region

The South Australian Magnesium Metal Project would involve a \$600m magnesium smelter and a \$200m gas-fired power generation facility on a site just east of Port Pirie.

Magnesium mined near Leigh Creek would be transported by rail to Port Pirie where a hydrometallurgical process would produce magnesium for die casting and alloying. The project would lead to 300 direct jobs and up to 600 indirect jobs.

THE PORT PIRIE BOARD HAS FOCUSED ON DEMONSTRATING THE SUITABILITY OF PORT PIRIE AS A COMPETITIVE LOCATION AND HAS APPOINTED A PROFESSIONAL OFFICER TO WORK EXCLUSIVELY ON THE PROJECT. THE BOARD IS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT THROUGH INVESTMENT ATTRACTION, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, PLANNING APPROVAL AND CONSTRUCTION.

Planning for the future

Getting the infrastructure right in regional SA is a challenge as local economies fluctuate. Planning depends on present infrastructure, business growth and population change.

Yorke Board has seen the development of an industrial zone at Bowmans with the signing of the Adelaide to Darwin Railway project and the rapid growth of Pt Wakefield Abattoir's workforce of 150 in 12 months.

DEVELOPERS FREQUENTLY ASK ABOUT A REGION'S PROFILE AND SERVICES. THE YORKE BOARD PROVIDED ANSWERS WHEN IT COMMISSIONED A SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROFILE. IT NOW HAS AN 80-PAGE REPORT WITH ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON THE AREA AND DETAILS ON SERVICES: TRANSPORT, ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWERAGE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WASTE MANAGEMENT, SATELLITE SERVICES, GAS SERVICES AND MORE.

Employing Indigenous Australians

A project aimed at employing Indigenous workers in private sector jobs in Port Augusta is working well and being considered as a model for other communities.

The project, now in its second year, involves pre-employment training, work placements, cross-cultural awareness training for employers and their staff, mentoring, and wage assistance payments at various retention milestones.

THE NORTHERN BOARD IDENTIFIED GREATER INDIGENOUS PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AS A CRITICAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUE AND IS NOW OPERATING THE THREE-YEAR FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM.



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Regional Development South Australia



We can dream about changing the world... We can talk about fixing the Nation... But we can take action locally. **And that's what really counts.**

- **Retention or creation of 6055 jobs**
- **\$140m investment in regional SA (1999/2001)**

DON PFITZNER
Regional Development South Australia

Regional Development South Australia:

Economic development requires local support. This comes through Regional Development Boards that have been operating around the State since the late 1980s – enjoying bi-partisan support from government.

The peak body for the Boards is Regional Development South Australia. RDSA provides leadership, support and a strong collective voice to encourage balanced regional economic development and employment. RDSA represents and is funded by its member boards with support from all spheres of government.

Regional Boards:

The State's Regional Boards assist regional communities to retain and expand businesses, to develop new industries, to create jobs and to improve infrastructure and services to sustain growth.

The Boards are a local contact for firms seeking help with business improvements, expansion and product development.

Each Board's activities is guided by its Strategic Plan. Each plan is individually formulated to ensure local input, local involvement and local ownership to promote regional empowerment and leadership. Business development advice is a core function targeted at businesses such as exporters and import replacers strategic to each region's development.

Boards are:

- Independent, autonomous incorporated associations
- Comprised of local people
- Economic development facilitators
- Managers of education and training programs
- Pro-active in assisting with export development
- Shop-front agencies for government
- Focussed on strategic priorities

Their funding:

Boards are supported in a cooperative arrangement by State and local government through five year Resource Agreements guided by government regional business policy. While governments contribute significant resources, Boards are independent bodies operating as incorporated associations.

Their members:

Boards are composed of high-profile local people representing business, industry, education, unions, local government and the community; members are selected for relevant skills.

Boards are involved in:

- Infrastructure planning (roads, bridges, power, gas, water)
- Aquaculture & agriculture value-adding
- Group training; quality accreditation
- Planning, zoning or licensing assistance
- Accessing funds for projects
- Negotiating heritage and Native Title impacts
- Resources development
- Information technology
- Food, wine and tourism



From the land and the vine...

Boards are involved in value adding in the food, wine and tourism industries supporting business expansion in a number of ways.



Meats, breads, condiments and olive oils from the Barossa are leading the way in establishing Food Barossa as a regional food brand. Special initiatives are assisting rural producers, preserving regional heritage and enriching the experiences of visitors.

The Barossa region has long been famous for premium wines – but fine quality foods have long been produced there.

THE BAROSSA LIGHT BOARD HAS FOUND FUNDING FOR FOOD BAROSSA AND PROVIDED PROJECT MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND AN OPERATING BASE.

Food Barossa capitalises on the unique cultural history of the area settled by German speaking immigrants who became successful food producers and whose descendants farm the same land today. Food Barossa is not based only on geographical boundaries. It focuses on the differences in methods and traditions that underpin the foods – mettwurst cured in traditional wood-fired smokehouses for example – and blends traditional recipes with contemporary approaches to produce gourmet delights.

The project benefits the region: supporting business growth and employment in tandem with the wine industry.

Clean, white, fresh potatoes from Nildottie in the Murraylands are a popular choice in Eastern State's supermarkets... spurring the development of the largest potato growing project in the southern hemisphere.

Large scale potato growing has taken off because of climate, soil and access to markets. The potatoes are grown in sand and can be brushed or dusted, avoiding washing which limits their life. They arrive at markets fresh and looking good.

THE MURRAYLANDS BOARD ASSISTED THE PROJECT, ON A TIGHT TIME FRAME, THROUGH PLANNING AND ABORIGINAL HERITAGE AND TITLE ISSUES. THE BOARD HELPED GAIN COMMITMENTS TO A MAJOR ELECTRICITY UPGRADE AND WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDING, HELPED SCREEN, REVIEW, SELECT AND INDUCT NEW STAFF.

Sixty new jobs have been created – as well as extra jobs in transport and services – with an \$18m investment in the region.

THE ADELAIDE HILLS BOARD HAS TAKEN A STRATEGIC APPROACH BY SUPPORTING THE ADELAIDE HILLS WINE REGION AND THE ADELAIDE HILLS FOOD PRODUCERS NETWORK.

Initiatives include a three-year regional marketing plan, a program of media visits, a national data base of gourmet outlets, high quality publications, wine and food tourism events, web site promotion and visitor information centres.

An environmentally friendly farm in the Adelaide Hills is one example of many food and wine success stories in the Adelaide Hills. B.-d farm at Paris Creek is producing biodynamic fresh milk and a range of biodynamic dairy products and a new state-of-the-art factory has been built.

Four Riverland wineries exhibited a range of their products and received orders on the spot when they attended the world's largest wine exhibition, the Vin Expo in Bordeaux, France, in June 2001.

IT WAS ONE OF FOUR TRIPS ARRANGED FOR RIVERLAND BUSINESSES TO RAISE MARKET AWARENESS BY THE RIVERLAND BOARD WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

Digging for the past to build the future An innovative university project integrating cultural tourism and archaeology in Burra – once the site of the richest copper mine in the world – aims to discover more about Australia's multi-cultural past.

The project is a boost for employment and tourism. Fieldwork began in 2000 and the project involves excavations, archaeological surveying and archival research.

Burra was the first surveyed mining town in Australia dating back to 1845 when copper was discovered. Immigrant workers – especially Cornish – established an extensive township and by 1851 Burra was Australia's largest inland town. Mining ceased in 1877 and the town remained as a pastoral centre. The economy got a boost in 1979 with the filming of Breaker Morant and in 1993 Burra was declared a State Heritage Area.

The five-year initiative with Flinders University has yielded materials for an exhibition which has toured overseas, and for conferences, pamphlets, a web site and CD ROM. It has forged links between local people and academia and will eventually lead to a university annexe in Burra.

THE BURRA COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE MID NORTH BOARD, THE NATIONAL TRUST, THE COUNCIL AND FLINDERS UNIVERSITY. THE BOARD'S PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE PROJECT WILL ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY.



From the sea...

Boards, working closely with governments, have facilitated aquaculture developments



Abalone, oysters, tuna and yellowtail kingfish (hiramasa), bred in pristine waters of Australia's Southern ocean, are finding lucrative markets internationally and providing an economic boost locally.

Farming the sea is not new but recent success in the oyster and tuna industries has provided the technology, the confidence and the capital to encourage farming of other species. Now the yellowtail kingfish industry is about to blossom on the back of cage technology established by the tuna industry and the abalone industry is set to burgeon as Asian markets grow.

THE EYRE BOARD HAS FACILITATED CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, ASSISTED WITH FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION.

The **oyster** industry is the fastest growing, based on a well-deserved reputation for quality farmed Pacific oysters. It has been a social and economic saviour with many coastal communities experiencing rapid growth.

The **tuna** industry is now geared to "catch and ranch". Today cage technology has improved, feeding regimes have become more efficient and the industry has become more socially and environmentally sensitive.

Eyre Peninsula could soon see a regional **abalone** industry generating 400 jobs. Abalone is highly valued in Asia – but diving for abalone is not without its dangers and wild stocks overseas are depleted leaving a lucrative short-fall worldwide – making investment in abalone attractive. Breeding abalone was established in 1990; there are now six farms on-shore. Research into production, tank design and water exchange has been immense.

THE EYRE BOARD HAS ASSISTED BY BRINGING PRODUCERS TOGETHER TO CONSIDER STRATEGIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: ENERGY DISTRIBUTION, REGULATIONS IN A PRIVATISED ELECTRICITY MARKET, ROADS AND GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

Yellowtail Kingfish

The warm, clean, aerated water from the power station in the Upper Spencer Gulf became an aid to the development of an aquaculture industry that now supplies Yellowtail Kingfish to Japan.

The project began in the early 1990s to develop snapper aquaculture: a hatchery used water from the power station to aid the spawning and growth of fingerlings. Snapper was phased out to breed yellowtail kingfish (hiramasa) which offers a far greater economic return as sushi and sashimi in Japan.

Australia Hiramasa has established a state-of-the-art fish processing facility in Whyalla. Fifty jobs have been created and this is expected to double.

THE WHYALLA BOARD INCUBATED AN R&D FACILITY BEHIND ITS BUILDING AND HELPED SOURCE GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THE PRIVATE PARTNERS IN THE JOINT INITIATIVE. THE WHYALLA AND NORTHERN BOARDS SOURCED FUNDS FOR THE COMMERCIAL HATCHERY IN PORT AUGUSTA AND \$1M FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (GROW-OUT CAGES, A NEW GROUYNE AND BOAT RAMP).

RDSA acknowledges the funding support of individual Federal and State programs in so many of its projects. Space constraints prevent mention of each by name.

