

Regional Development Strategy Consultation

The Strategy

What is the purpose of the Regional Development Strategy?

- The Regional Development Strategy will be designed to better guide, prioritise and coordinate the Government of South Australia's long term investment in South Australia's regions, as well as support key regional development drivers.

Why is a Regional Development Strategy necessary?

Regional plans are already being developed, why do we need this?

- Regional plans are important, and have a role in drawing attention to the individual needs of a specific region.
- However, the Regional Development Strategy will provide a statewide plan outlining how the Government of South Australia will invest in regional South Australia and support regional development over the long term.
- The Strategy will aim to provide transparency about how the Government of South Australia will support regional development, which will provide confidence to the private sector and other levels of government when deciding how and where to invest.

What does the strategy aim to achieve?

- A South Australian Regional Development Strategy has the potential to transform how the State Government prioritises investment and services, infrastructure and key regional drivers across regional South Australia over the long term.
- A Regional Development Strategy outlining how the government plans to invest in regional economies over the long term will have the capacity to foster business and investor confidence in regional South Australia and develop attractive, vibrant communities that have access to services and amenities to enhance regional liveability.
- We want to develop a strategic, whole-of-government approach to investment in regional South Australia for the longer term, so that all government agencies work collaboratively to foster strong economic, social and community development.
- The strategy, that is anticipated to be delivered in partnership with private investors and the community, will lead to a regional South Australia that attracts people to live, provides businesses and industries to invest in, and offers meaningful job opportunities.

Will there be an action plan (or similar) to detail work to be done and reported against?

- The Regional Development Strategy will be designed to better guide, prioritise and coordinate the State Government's long term investment in South Australia's regions, as well as support key regional development drivers.
- It is not an action plan for the State Government, but rather a high level strategy to guide future investment in regional South Australia and support key regional enablers.

Is investment just about infrastructure and business, or does it also include government and non-government services and programs?

- The Regional Development Strategy discussion paper focuses on the Government of South Australia's investment in services, infrastructure and supporting key regional drivers such as population, capability development, and attracting investment, innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The strategy, in partnership with private investors and the community, will deliver a regional South Australia that attracts people to live, provides businesses and industries to invest in, and offers meaningful job opportunities.
- The strategy will improve transparency about how the Government of South Australia will support regional development, which will provide confidence to the private sector and other levels of government when deciding how and where to invest.

How will existing regional strategies (or similar) be recognised?

- Existing regional strategies still have a place in regional South Australia.
- The Regional Development Strategy will provide a statewide approach to investment and regional development support, whereas regionally-based plans will still be needed to deal with particular local issues.
- However, future regional strategies may wish to align themselves with the Government of South Australia's Regional Development Strategy.

What will this mean for my region/town?

- The Regional Development Strategy's statewide approach to investment and regional development support should result in a more coordinated model for infrastructure investment and service provision.
- All regional towns should benefit from a strategic approach to regional development and investment.
- There will still be opportunities for regions, regional towns and individual communities to access Government of South Australia grant programs offered through various departments. Each grant program has its own criteria and guidelines, just as they have in the past, and applicants will need to meet those criteria when they apply for funding.

Will the Government of South Australia fund specific projects as part of the Regional Development Strategy?

- The Regional Development Strategy is not a funding plan.
- It will not provide a list of projects that the Government of South Australia will fund.
- It is not a plan for an immediate resourcing of particular infrastructure and/or services.

- The Regional Development Strategy will provide a long term strategic, whole-of-government approach to investment in regional South Australia to foster strong economic, social and community development.
- The strategy, in partnership with private investors and the community, will deliver a regional South Australia that attracts people to live, provides businesses and industries to invest in, and offers meaningful job opportunities.
- It is intended to be a long term strategy, and is not intended to outline an extensive list of projects to be funded.
- Specific regional projects will still be funded through various State Government departments, either as part of core business or through grant funding programs. Individuals and communities can continue to apply for specific regional projects through these avenues.

What are the timeframes for the Regional Development Strategy?

- The consultation for the Regional Development Strategy will take place during June and July 2019.
- The engagement report will be prepared directly following the consultation process.
- Thereafter the Community Advisory Panel will prepare the Regional Development Strategy.
- It is anticipated that the Regional Development Strategy will be released in 2020.

Discussion paper and consultation

What is the discussion paper for?

- The Regional Development Strategy discussion paper is the starting point for our engagement with regional South Australia to inform the development of the strategy.
- The discussion paper poses questions to the community which focus on service provision, investment in infrastructure, and regional enablers including population, capability development, and attracting investment, innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The discussion paper and associated consultation process will give individuals, communities and stakeholders a way to participate and help shape the Regional Development Strategy.
- Your responses to these questions will be used to help inform the Regional Development Strategy, including how you would like to see the Government of South Australia invest in, and support, regional South Australia.

What is the consultation process? How can I contribute to the Regional Development Strategy?

- An independent Community Advisory Panel has been appointed to lead the engagement process, and using the feedback received on the questions posed in the discussion paper, prepare the Regional Development Strategy.
- The consultation process will give individuals, communities and stakeholders a way to participate in assisting in the formation of the Regional Development Strategy.
- There are a number of ways you can get involved:
 - Provide feedback online on the questions posed via the yourSAy website, yoursay.sa.gov.au/regional-development

- Email Regions SA your feedback on the questions posed – PIRSA.RegionsSA@sa.gov.au (please use the subject line “Regional Development Strategy Discussion Paper Feedback”)
- Submit written feedback on the questions posed. Mail should be addressed to:
 - Regions SA
 - Re. Regional Development Strategy Discussion Paper
 - Primary Industries and Regions SA
 - GPO Box 1671
 - Adelaide, SA 5001
- Attend a stakeholder and community forum – the regional stakeholder and community forums will be held at locations across the state giving key regional stakeholders and community members the opportunity to provide feedback on the questions posed in the discussion paper to the independent Community Advisory Panel. Details are available at yoursay.sa.gov.au/regional-development
- The closing date for written feedback is 5.00pm on Friday, 26 July 2019.
- Please note your submission will be made publicly available unless you indicate you wish for it to remain confidential.

What happens after the consultation process is over? How will feedback from regional stakeholders and communities be considered?

- The outcomes of the engagement process will be made publicly available through an engagement report, prepared by the Community Advisory Panel. The engagement report will summarise the feedback received during the engagement process.
- The Community Advisory Panel will use the feedback received on the discussion paper to inform the preparation of the Regional Development Strategy.

What type of feedback is being sought from the consultation?

Can I suggest projects to be funded in my community?

- The discussion paper poses key questions that focus on service provision, investment in infrastructure, and regional enablers including population, capability development, and attracting investment, innovators and entrepreneurs.
- Feedback should focus on responding to the questions posed in the discussion paper, rather than on individual regional resource needs or projects.

Do I have to respond to all the questions posed in the discussion paper?

- No. You may respond to as many of the questions posed in the discussion paper as you wish.

Stakeholder and Community Forums

When and where will the Stakeholder and Community Forums take place?

All dates and locations are available at yoursay.sa.gov.au/regional-development

What should I expect from the stakeholder and community forum? How should I prepare for the community forum?

- Key stakeholders will receive an invitation to present their feedback on the questions posed in the discussion paper to the Community Advisory Panel at a set time. They will have 15 minutes to present their responses and then the panel will have 5 minutes to ask questions of the stakeholder. The presentation can be in any form that the stakeholder chooses – verbal, verbal with supporting handouts, PowerPoint presentation (bring hardcopies in case of IT issues).
- Community members should come to the community sessions at the forum with pre-prepared responses to the questions asked in the discussion paper. You will then be able to verbally provide your feedback to the panel.

How will the community forum run?

- At the community session, there will be individual groups for each of the sections of the discussion paper ('Service provision', 'Investment in infrastructure', and 'Regional enablers'). Panel members will listen to feedback from community members on the relevant section of the discussion paper in a small group discussion. Community members will be able to move between groups as they choose. There will also be a 'Community Feedback wall' at the community session, where community members can put their feedback.

Can I attend more than one forum?

- The format of the forums will be exactly the same. If you feel you need to provide additional information by attending another forum you can.

Can I bring feedback from others with me to the forum or provide feedback on behalf of a community group?

- Yes

Can I attend the stakeholder sessions? Will the presentations from key stakeholders in my area be available?

- The stakeholder sessions are individual sessions, accordingly they will not be open to the public.
- All feedback received through the consultation process will be incorporated into an engagement report and released publicly, unless the author/provider of the feedback indicated they would like it to remain confidential.

Community Advisory Panel

How were the 'key regional stakeholders' selected who will present to the Community Advisory Panel at the forums?

- The stakeholders invited to present to the Community Advisory Panel were determined on the basis that they had broad knowledge of the region; are a major regional industry representative; a major regional employer; major education and training providers; and major health and social service providers.

Who will make up the Community Advisory Panel? What is their task?

- The independent Community Advisory Panel has been appointed by the government to lead the engagement process, to gather all feedback received on the questions posed in the discussion paper and to prepare the Regional Development Strategy.
- The Community Advisory Panel consists of Mark Sutton, Bill Spurr, Tony Vaughan, Sam Telfer, Maree Wauchope and Jeremy Conway. Profiles of these panel members are available at pir.sa.gov.au/regionaldevelopmentstrategy
- The panel members are strategic thinkers that have cross sector experience within the regional context.

Are some of the panel members from regional South Australia?

- Four of the panel members are current residents of regional South Australia.

More information

Where can I find more information?

- Further information can be found at www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/regional-development or www.pir.sa.gov.au/regionaldevelopmentstrategy