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The Common Purpose: Advancing the Economic and Social Development of the Upper Spencer Gulf

Final Report

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Contents

Acknowledgements	(i)
Acronyms	(ii)
Executive Summary	(iii)
Snapshot of the Region	(vi)
1. A Collaborative Strategy	1
2. Regional Leadership: Collaboration and Regional Development	7
3. Terms of Reference	15
4. Reflections on the Role and Purpose of the USGCPG	20
5. The General Question: Dealing with the Fundamentals	29
6. The Three Cities	41
Bibliography	67
Appendix A: Regional Profiles – Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, Far North and Yorke and Mid North	68
Appendix B: 2011 Resources and Energy Infrastructure Demand Study	142
Appendix C: Port Augusta Learning Precinct	144
Appendix D: Thinking About Regional Economic Growth	147
Appendix E: Region Under Study	148
Appendix F: Programs	161
Appendix G: Letter of Introduction	164

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It is now time to focus on individuals, families and communities, to raise aspirations and expectations and to shape the future.

Acronyms

ACE	Adult Community Education
CPG	Common Purpose Group (sometimes USGCPG)
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DFEEST	Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
DECD	Department for Education and Child Development
EIF	Education Infrastructure Fund (Commonwealth)
FLO	Flexible Learning Option (enrolments)
ICAN	Innovative Community Action Networks
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy
PEA	Priority Employment Area
PHIDU	Public Health and Information Development Unit
SACES	South Australian Centre for Economic Studies
SASP	South Australia Strategic Plan
USGCPG	Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group
TAFE SA Regional	Regional Campus of TAFE SA network
RDA FN	Regional Development Australia Far North
RDA WEP	Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula
RDA Y&MN	Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North

Executive Summary

Discussion

“Building an Economic Community: A Turn Around Strategy for the Upper Spencer Gulf Region to 2010” prepared in August 1998 by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies outlined a proposal to establish an Upper Spencer Gulf Economic Development Strategy Group (or Common Purpose Group).

At that time regional South Australia was experiencing real stress from rising unemployment, job losses, the impact of new technologies and a decline in agricultural and commodity prices.

The paper argued that there were significant opportunities within the region to diversify the economic base of the three cities and to improve the international competitiveness of the region through collaborative strategies. The region required a “single, wide area regional planning and coordination structure”. The paper further argued the establishment of a ‘Common Purpose Group’ to help drive ‘economic, social and community development towards the year 2010’. Regional strategies would be pursued by the Common Purpose Group; sub-regional strategies by the equivalent of the RDAs and “city developments” by the individual Councils.

The USGCPG came into existence and remains the “go to organisation” on regional issues, further strengthened by RDA membership.

It must now enter a new phase in response to changing times and changing circumstances.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Common Purpose Group give consideration to the appointment of an Independent Chair and that the period be for two years with potential for renewal.

It is recommended that the Common Purpose Group appoint a full-time Executive Officer, that it agree to financially support the position and that State government agree to financially support the position. A level of support from the Commonwealth should also be sought to reflect the involvement and interest of Commonwealth agencies. Private sector funding could also be sought. The initial position would be for a minimum period of three years.

It is recommended that the Executive Officer (in consultation with others, and especially the three RDAs) be required to set out an integrated Regional Development Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy and Plan should include responsibility for research and ‘taking action’ through specific purpose sub-committees subsequently approved by the Common Purpose Group.

It therefore follows and **it is recommended** that the Common Purpose Group establish sub-committees of the USGCPG to address, research and report on strategic priorities identified by the USGCPG. Central government agencies would be called upon to assist

the Committees as required. Sub-committee chairperson and membership would be drawn from relevant experts/ stakeholders and may include persons external to the regions and from central government agencies.

It is recommended that the Common Purpose Group consciously and specifically seek to promote a higher profile across the region and to external agencies through a concerted publicity strategy. The strategy must involve continually informing and reinforcing the measures of change (key performance indicators) and progress towards the achievement of goals and strategies.

The membership of the Common Purpose Group is such that central agencies should work in partnership with the Group as a receiver of information on public policy development and as a conduit for planning regional responses. For example, the amalgamation of Families SA to form the new DECD and the potential for schools to be “hubs” for service delivery has important implications for service integration across the region.

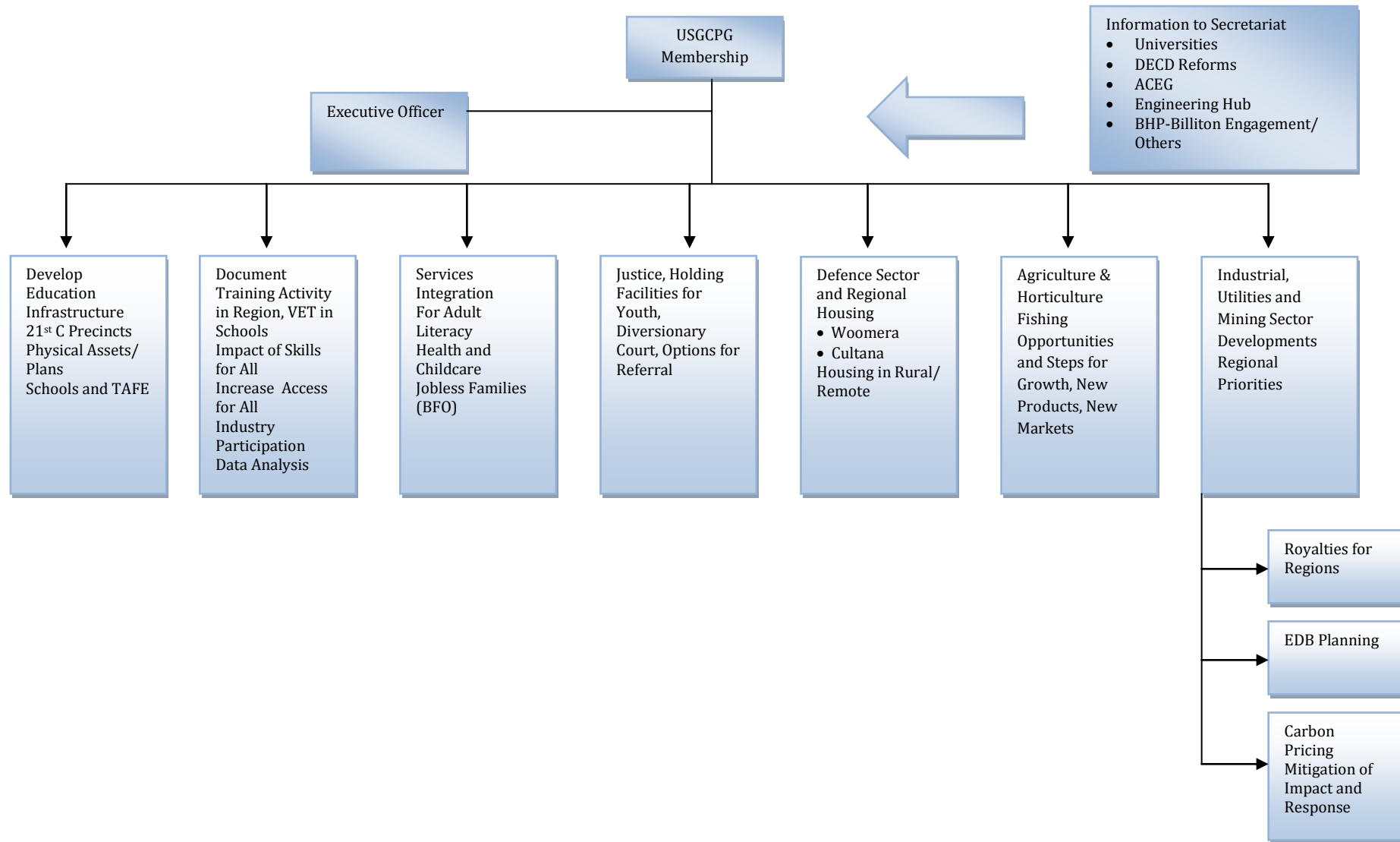
It is recommended that central agencies initiate information sharing with the USGCPG, participate on sub-committees as invited and help to achieve the objectives of the USGCPG.

Economic growth theory, research into regional development and insights into ‘why regions grow’ all confirm the importance of regional communities themselves being proactive, developing strategic plans that address economic, social and environmental goals and ‘draw-in’ or collaborate with local stakeholders. Research also prioritises attention to social capital as the foundation for human capital which is a key driver of economic growth. So the situation of individuals, families and communities including educational experience and participation requires much greater emphasis. As with ageing industrial structure, so the renewal of physical infrastructure in education is necessary across the region. The rejuvenation of schools is a whole community responsibility.

Following from the key priorities of the USGCPG, the three RDAs, various planning documents of central agencies and industry development across the region, we have set out a starting point and sub-committees as the mechanism to advance key issues for the region (see Figure 1). They are priorities arising from consultations with a wide cross section of the communities of the three cities.

The sub-committees would carry out the necessary research, data gathering and analysis, consultations and report back to the Executive Officer. They may be assisted by external agencies, by consultants, etc; where it is deemed helpful, they should provide KPIs to measure progress such as increase in enrolments, improvements in literacy and numeracy, parents and children using ECD/health services, school attendance improvements as it is important that progress is able to be communicated.

Figure 1
Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group: Economic and Community Strategic Development



Addendum

A report on the Upper Spencer Gulf Heavy Industry Hub¹ was released following the finalisation of SACES project for the USGCPG. SACES interpretation of the findings of the “Hub Study” are that, with respect to physical infrastructure, there is a role for State government in the provision of common use infrastructure such as ports and potentially where there are social benefits and/or costs related to use or development of community facilities. SACES has previously discussed the role of government with respect to market failure and mining operations in some detail.²

SACES recommendations to the USGCPG in our report are specifically that:

- 1) the USGCPG set out an integrated Regional Development Strategy and Action Plan;
- 2) the Common Purpose Group establish sub-committees (i.e., the mechanism) to address, research and report on strategic priorities identified by the USGCPG; and
- 3) within a broader publicity strategy that the USGCPG continually inform and reinforce the measures for change (key performance indicators) and progress towards the achievement of goals and strategies. Central agencies were invited to assist in the development and planning regional priorities and responses.

The “Hub Report” virtually reiterates what the report from SACES to the USGCPG sets out (with the addition of discussions related to land use planning, common use infrastructure and industry relationships).

Specifically, their key findings include:

- developing a holistic regional development strategy to support economic growth based on an improved understanding of strategic social and community infrastructure needs that go beyond the mining industry and relate to providing public amenity, services to attract families to the region (p. 11);
- regional economic development objectives should be pursued for the unified USG as a region, including quantifiable targets and a mechanism to monitor progress with an appropriate governance, monitoring and implementation approach (p. 11);
- skills, training and workforce development was one of the most prominent issues from stakeholder consultations (p. 13); and
- specific infrastructure investment were not cited as a constraint to growth (p. 8).

The “Hub Report” considers that the State government should consider tasking the Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance (RESA) with coordinating the workforce planning analysis and activities of disparate groups and sharing information between parties.

This should not be supported by the USG Common Purpose Group.

¹ KPMG, June 2012, Upper Spencer Gulf Heavy Industry Hub.

² SA Centre for Economic Studies (2011), “The Economic of Government Provision of Mining Infrastructure: A Case Study Approach”.

It should not be supported because the same report notes that “an integrated approach to regional development initiatives” needs to be pursued and “this needs to go beyond the mining industry”. RESA is an advocate for the resources sector with a role in “the space” of collaboration between industry and government. It does not have the remit for regional development (economic, social, environmental, community) and is one stakeholder only in the training/skills debate. Equally the Training and Skills Commission is as are the RDA bodies and other industry skill boards.

Box 5.3 in SACES report sets out the necessity of a full consideration of the importance, linkages and urgency of improving education services within a framework for economic prosperity (Box 5.1). RESA is one contributor as an advocate for the minerals and resources sector. Equally the RDAs have a very significant role as they are charged as the key agency to integrate service delivery and linkages with industry, education, RTOs and key government agencies. The Commonwealth’s Local Employment Co-ordinator has clearly a “co-ordination and development role”. SACES report highlights the labour force status of USG residents by educational qualifications and points to the absolute necessity of a holistic, integrated education response for all in the community, where schools, TAFE SA, Universities, NGOs and ACE providers are critical leaders and stakeholders.

Snapshot of the Region

The Upper Spencer Gulf region is usually associated with the three major Provincial Cities – Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie – although it effectively includes other smaller councils and towns proximate to the cities and a much wider agricultural hinterland, tourism locations and industrial and mining sites.

The “region” referred to in this report is that defined by the state uniform regional boundaries and as designated by the three Regional Development Australia committees³ that are members of the USGCPG. The larger region than just the three cities is because of the inter-dependence of the three cities with each other, with the wider regional economies that they support and that are in turn connected to the regional centres.

The region covers some 902,369 square kilometres or 91.6 per cent of the State’s land mass and is home to 163,975 persons or approximately 10 per cent of the State’s population.

The gross value added (GVA) across all industries on production is equal to the gross regional product and was \$6.993 billion in 2006/07 or 10.2 per cent of gross state product. The development of mining operations in the region would see mining’s contribution of 4 per cent to State GSP increase to 12 per cent in the period 2012-2020. Royalty payments from the BHP Billiton Roxby Downs site would increase from the current \$60 million per annum to an estimated \$240 million per annum.⁴

Unemployment rates and labour force participation rates vary across the region and as at June 2010 the respective rates were (Table 1):

Table 1
Unemployment rates and labour force participation rates

Region	Unemployment (Per cent)	Participation Rate (Per cent)
Yorke and Mid North	4.3	57.5
Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	5.1	65.1
Far North	7.0	64.7
State average	5.5	63.1

where the data highlights variations in regional labour markets and different challenges and conditions faced by each of the RDA regions. For example, is the unemployment rate lower in Yorke and Mid North because the participation rate is lower? Is the lower participation rate related to skills, qualifications, demographics, transport and amenable to policy intervention?

A similar picture is observed in VET and school participation rates (Table 2).

³ Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, Far North and Yorke and Mid North.

⁴ SACES calculations: June 2012 Economic Briefing Report.

Table 2
VET participation and school participation, full-time

Region	VET Participation per 1,000 persons	School Participation 16 years
Yorke and Mid North	84.5	76.4
Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	103.8	71.4
Far North	112.7	59.7
State average	73.5	78.4

VET participation rates exceed the State average and conversely full-time school participation rates at aged 16 years are lower. Maintaining and even boosting VET participation will strengthen the likelihood of the regional population taking up employment in the minerals and resources sector, and supporting industries. Boosting school participation rates to the State average will provide further access to VET, to Universities and reduce still further the unemployment rate.

With respect to future employment outcomes the data in this report confirms that the higher the level of secondary schooling achieved (and this includes VET participation) the much greater likelihood of working full-time or part-time, the less likely you will be unemployed and the less likely you will be “not in the labour force”.

A clear objective for the region – to capture the economic and social benefits of mining, direct and indirect employment and to build a strong and prosperous economy – is to improve education outcomes.

Underpinning these goals would be for the region, local communities, families and schools to reach and then better the State average for reading, spelling and numeracy as measured by NAPLAN test results that are summarised in Table 3 as measured by points below the State average at year 3 and by year 7.

Table 3
NAPLAN test results: points below state average¹

Region	At Year 3	By Year 7
Yorke and Mid North	12	6
Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	15	4.5
Far North	15	12

Note: ¹ State average set to 100; table shows points below State average.

The three RDAs have summarised their respective populations, labour force, participation rates in work, education and the vocational sector to identify key strategies for action (Box 1).

The regions have similar education and labour force profiles and similar challenges so that, in effect, the elements of a regional strategy/regional priorities are agreed although specific strategies are yet to be identified. Three regional profiles are included at Appendix A.

Key elements include:

- 1) improve school attendance rates, improve literacy and numeracy, raise educational attainment and develop foundation skills;
- 2) strengthen VET pathways linking school participation to TAFE/VET to strengthen completion of vocational qualifications and link to employment;
- 3) establish further pathways for young people to obtain training and link to work to raise workforce participation and hence address pockets of disadvantage;
- 4) Aboriginal people will benefit from 1, 2 and 3 above, but disadvantage to also be addressed through workforce opportunities, parental involvement and adult education; and
- 5) pockets/locations of disadvantage receive attention through case management intervention that are intensive, consistent and that “break social exclusion”, including encouragement and opportunities for adult re-entry programs.

Box 1

Regional Priorities

Far North Profile

- youthful population profile, above average proportion of children;
- labour force participation rate at State average, unemployment declining;
- population share 1.7 per cent of State, VET participation share at 2.2 per cent.

Need to address:

- 1) low educational attainment;
- 2) Aboriginal and youth disadvantage;
- 3) family opportunities;
- 4) entrenched pockets of unemployment and non-participation.

Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Profile

- middle aged population profile, below average proportion of young people;
- average labour force participation rate and low level of unemployment;
- population share 3.6 per cent, VET participation share of 4.9 per cent.

Need to address:

- 1) low educational attainment;
- 2) Aboriginal disadvantage;
- 3) pockets of entrenched disadvantage, family opportunities and low labour force participation with certain cohorts/localities.

Yorke and Mid North Profile

- above average proportion of older people;
- below average labour force participation rate, unemployment below State average;
- population share 4.7 per cent, VET participation share at 5.2 per cent.

Need to address:

- 1) low educational attainment;
- 2) youth labour market disadvantage;
- 3) entrenched unemployment in certain localities;
- 4) low labour force participation.

1. A Collaborative Strategy

It is imperative that the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group:

- clarify, restate, reinforce and publicise their vision for the future development of the region;
- acknowledge that the combined effect of the three cities/three regions acting together will be beneficial for the larger region;
- build a comprehensive and integrated strategy to achieve the Common Purpose; through
 - engaging stakeholders in a *mechanism* to address common issues that are steps towards that vision and build commitment for change;
 - mechanisms that are based on *collaboration* to build commitment for change; and
 - stakeholder *leadership* able to demonstrate a clear commitment for change.

There are significant *opportunities* for growth in the Upper Spencer Gulf region and “greater growth occurs when regions mobilise their own local assets and resources.”⁵

The task of “mobilising” requires a comprehensive strategy for the longer term that is supported by policies and programs. So for example, infrastructure is important as a key determinant of regional growth but it is shown (OECD 2009) to have little impact unless associated with the development of human capital and innovation. So it is important to promote a high performance primary, secondary and adult education system and to promote community involvement that leads to tertiary education (which includes vocational qualifications). That might be the key component of the vision.

Strategy ...

A comprehensive, integrated strategy starts from enthusiasm about, and acknowledgement of, opportunities – opportunities that arise from natural resource endowments, specialisation, industry diversification and business investment, new industries, building community capacity, participation in education and qualifications of local people, workforce participation and maximising the use of local institutions and involvement of local people.

Policies ...

Policies then follow – they have specific intentions (targets/achievable outcomes) such as, *inter alia*, to improve school attendance and retention rates, attract and retain the best teachers, strengthen the agglomeration or cluster of industries, improve institutional arrangements such as the flow of young people in and from school into training, actions to support others to re-enter the workforce and attract investment.

“Performance depends on regional policies – on the regions ability to increase productivity, change industry specialisation to seize new market opportunities, increase the efficiency of the local labour market and invest in skills and innovation. Regional assets are region-specific features that can be mobilised by appropriate policies.”⁶

Localism or place-based regional policy recognises that regions themselves need to develop their own vision for their future economic development and that they play a leadership role based on knowledge of their own circumstances. The role of central

⁵ OECD(2009), *How Regions Grow: Trends and Analysis*.

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 42.

government is seen to be to work collaboratively *with* and *in* regions, not to do things to them.

Programs ...

Specific programs then follow – such as initiatives in education (Academic Success Guarantee, ICAN, etc), adult re-entry programs, building family opportunities, improved career guidance advice and referral, integration of health, education, family support services, etc. Local knowledge is critical to the development of policies (or the ability to shape them to regional goals) while local expertise is best placed to design and integrate programs and services.

Regional economies and communities are situated in national and state economies/communities and often are the “receivers of policies and programs”. Notwithstanding the importance of national and state policies and programs, an important finding from studies into regional development, is that regions that do not advance and promote local growth factors relevant to their own vision and local circumstances, fail to capture the full benefit of national growth rates and policies.

So – what happens locally matters!

And it may not show effects in the short-term. The OECD considers that the effects of infrastructure and tertiary education may take up to “three years to influence regional growth.”⁷ This finding confirms the requirement for a strategy, a consistent application of the strategy and consistency in policy and program funding.

An important digression

A starting point for the USGCPG to think about their cities and the region, is to base potential future actions on what is feasible and what is attainable, including what will contribute to economic development, economic growth, social and community improvement and quality of life for all citizens in the region. It is also obviously important to base strategies and actions on an analysis (i.e., an understanding) of the regional economy and history, the community and their aspirations, their current situation and willingness to change.

That is to say, what strategies and actions are contemplated should have a ‘good likelihood of success’, they should be able to capture and engage the imagination of the local population and engender a desire to change. In addition, independent analysis supported by quantitative and qualitative research should provide a bed-rock on which strategies are designed and agreed. Strategies need to be referenced to economic and social development theory (including the role of education and early childhood development) which provides direction and support for economic and social change.

Strategies should also be based on those actions or policy levers over which local communities have some control and hence ability to influence in order to achieve desired outcomes. Some of the key drivers of growth that can be considered include:

⁷ *ibid*, p. 90.

- raising the quality of human capital will help regions to grow;
- raising school completion rates and adult education rates provides a boost to labour force participation rates;
- infrastructure (“hard and soft”) is a necessary but not sufficient for growth and is associated with human capital and innovation;
- an increase in the labour force, from an increase in supply and activity (increase in employment to population ratio) and employment;
- improving productivity (as measured by average valued added per capita) which can reflect regional specialisation;
- population growth;
- supporting/fostering business development and innovation, including mechanisms to share knowledge. Innovation is a highly local process and includes vocational and higher education, businesses and the public sector;
- the growth of proximate or neighbouring regions contributes to growth through trade and multiple linkages; and
- improving the utilisation of un-used or underutilised local/community assets such as teaching and vocational facilities, other fixed assets and the skills of those who have retired from work (e.g., in mentoring).

To date there has been considerable work, planning and research into the minerals and resources sector and the implications for the Eyre and Western, Far North and Yorke and Mid-North region. There have been numerous studies into investment, infrastructure demand and training capability, while state agencies have consistently referred to the importance of maximising the ‘social benefits from mining’. Much of this good work has necessarily occurred within central agencies (as is appropriate) and individual mining companies.

However, this research project emanates from a decision taken locally, through the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group (USGCPG), specifically in **asking the question** “how well is the region positioned to take advantage of new employment opportunities (i.e., now) and how well are education providers resourced to meet the challenge.”

In addressing this question it is unlikely that the answer will be found in one single program response or one single initiative, as the imperative to benefit from developments in the minerals and resource sector involves consideration of theories of sustainable economic growth and an understanding of the key drivers of growth, the importance of education and training in human capital formation, attention to social justice issues to address social inequality and greater civic participation by all in these regional communities.

Thinking about an approach

Given the complex interplay of economic and social factors that contribute to growth and regional incomes (e.g., natural endowments, human capital, population, new technology and new industry, the NBN, etc), it is important to understand how events and circumstances influence one another and the community and the region as whole. An appropriate and helpful way of thinking about issues, problems, communities and how to address local challenges and circumstances (i.e., complexity) is what is called a

‘systems approach or system thinking,’ which essentially is a process of understanding that organisations, communities and regional economies are systems which consist of people, structures, and processes that work together to make an organization healthy or unhealthy.”⁸

‘Systems thinking’ is about the whole community, not the individual parts such as the economy, industry, infrastructure, investment, housing, transport, education, employment and training. ‘Systems thinking’ is intended as an aid to understanding and focus (or appreciation) on the entire system, in order to help identify problems, identify solutions and address as many problems as possible. It is a way of identifying stakeholders who have a legitimate interest in reform or change, acknowledging that they have responsibilities and a role to play in the process of social change and highlighting the connectedness or interdependency of actions to address regional challenges. “Systems thinking’ is an important aid in the development of strategies and interventions; it shifts the focus from ‘silo-based policies and programs’ through a process of enhancing awareness and ‘awareness is the critical mechanism to drive social change’.

It is important to approach complex issues and challenges for the Upper Spencer Gulf from a new standpoint and to move away from criticism (often justified) of central agencies for their ‘silo-based’ approach. “Systems thinking’ can contribute to a new approach and most importantly it can help to define local responsibility (what are you prepared to do?), what is the nature of the problem, what outcomes does the region desire, what are the most effective intervention points, the most effective programs or most effective advice you can provide to other tiers of government and what local mechanisms are necessary to drive reform.

As an example, consider the importance of education, school attendance, participation and outcomes and school performance.

Education outcomes depend not only on what is delivered in schools (including pre-schools), the vocational sector and other social services, but critically outcomes are influenced by what happens outside of schools in the local community, by a students’ family circumstances and cultural practices and peer influences. There is a complex interplay of factors and individual/family circumstances that contribute to the formation of personal, social and cultural values within the region, that then impact on workforce participation, preparedness to participate in skills training and attitudes and aspirations. All of this is important to economic and social development.

“One of the most powerful means of propagating and sustaining new developments is the system of education available in a society. Education is the means for organized transmission of society’s collective knowledge to each next generation by the previous generation. It equips each new generation to face the opportunities and challenges of the future with the knowledge gathered from the past. It shows the young generation the opportunities that lie ahead for them and thereby raises their aspiration to achieve more. The information imparted by education raises the level of expectations of youth as well as their aspirations for higher income. It also equips them with the mental capacity to devise ways and means to improve productivity and enhance living standards.”⁹

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systems_thinking

⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_development_theory#Education

We examine more closely the performance of schools in the region later in the report, but here we simply illustrate that 'systems thinking' can help focus policy and community responses to the challenge of school attendance, necessary improvement in literacy and numeracy, retention to completion of schooling and the acquisition of work and life skills. High unauthorised non-attendance at school (i.e., truancy rates) is a signal from young people that needs to be interpreted carefully. Education professionals, counsellors and youth workers are highly skilled and experienced in this. What might be an appropriate response?

How the 'problem' is defined will influence how we define the solution. If the problem is confined to one school or one geographical area then it might be reasonable to assert that there are issues confined to that one school and the student population. A school-based response may be appropriate. If the problem is similar across schools in the region and various population groups then a regional response is required. But is the 'problem' purely a student-based issue? 'Systems thinking' suggests that high unauthorised non-attendance rates reflect multiple factors including, *inter alia*, community, adult, family and peer attitudes to the benefits (pay-of) of education, low aspirations, difficulties experienced within the school system such as poor literacy and numeracy skills that may have their foundation in family circumstances and academic versus vocational preferences. "Systems thinking" should cause one to ask whether the 'problem' is school based and can be solved by the teaching profession and schools alone.

Education professionals (i.e., stakeholders) have a good understanding of the issues and using 'systems thinking' advise that a four pronged strategy is most likely required, to include:

- **Schools:** revitalisation of teaching in schools, that requires much greater investment of time and money in professional development for teachers, including the appointment and involvement of counsellors, health professionals, social workers and psychologists in schools;
- **Young People:** more opportunities for young people to develop self-esteem and personal confidence so that young people develop a sense of mastery and real skills;
- **Families:** working with families to build support for education, a commitment to school attendance, the cultural capital so necessary to reinforce the benefits of education, including providing resources to help young people to learn and further support for adult education and literacy and numeracy ; and
- **Community:** community involvement and leadership that promotes values and encourages life-long learning, opportunities to participate in Adult Community Education (ACE), adult literacy and numeracy courses while stakeholders such as employers, job service providers, not-for-profit and government social welfare agencies, employment and training providers, sporting groups, councils and others skilfully and continually reinforce the need for literacy and numeracy, the development of skills and gaining qualifications.

This example illustrates three important themes for the USGCPG, that to achieve the common purpose:

- then the group needs a **mechanism** to engage and to address what are complex issues, that need addressing on a regional basis, that will require concerted effort over the longer term and that require input from a range of stakeholder;
- will require **collaboration** (note that the USGCPG is itself an example of a collaborative mechanism; there are other examples of regional successes that are based on collaboration); and
- will require leadership; **leadership is a shared process** that includes specialists but also includes individuals and groups who are important stakeholders and who can contribute to transformational change.

2. Regional Leadership: Collaboration and Regional Development

- Regional Development consists of:
 - economic development: sustainable and growing levels of economic activity,
 - social development: strengthening social institutions/networks that encourage participation,
 - environmental development: management and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental assets.
- Regional leadership exercised through the USGCPG, will be strengthened by re-grouping the strategic priorities and then including specific actions to address social capital and human capital. Collaboration with state agencies, notably DECD, DFEEST and DMITRE should focus on investment in education for all age groups, participation in training and thereby promote “local solutions to local problems”.
- The three RDAs have an important role to play in bringing to the USGCPG business and community leaders to chair working groups on agreed priorities.

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group (USGCPG) is an incorporated body established in 1998 with the composition of the Board of “The Common Purpose Group” comprising the following:

- the Mayors of the Cities of Port Augusta, Whyalla and the Port Pirie Regional Council (3);
- the Chief Executive Officers of the Councils (3);
- the Chief Executive Officers of the three Regional Development Australia¹⁰ organisations that cover the region (3);
- the Dean of the Whyalla Campus of the University of South Australia (1); and
- the Director of TAFE SA Regional.

The Common Purpose Group (CPG) initially formed to address and respond to the economic downturn that the region experienced in the mid-1990s. Over time it has refreshed a common agenda to address those issues that strengthen the competitive advantage of the region and most recently, to cooperate, plan and assist the expansion of the mining industry.

The Objectives and Purposes of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group are as follows:

- a) Fostering the development of townships of the Upper Spencer Gulf;
- b) Promoting the social, economic and practical advantages of improving the Upper Spencer Gulf economy;
- c) Facilitating the expansion of business within the Upper Spencer Gulf; and
- d) Facilitating the development and implementation of strategies to improve the Upper Spencer Gulf economy.

¹⁰ Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula; Regional Development Australia Far North; and Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North.

The USGCPG has been the subject of study, as a model of intra-regional cooperation.¹¹

“the region is perhaps a ‘mega-region more by area than by population size. From 1970 to 1998, these industries (i.e., mineral extraction and processing; shipbuilding; steel and heavy manufacturing; and railways) were seriously impacted by national and international change to their markets and experienced considerable downsizing and restructuring. Previous attempts to strengthen the regional economy through government programs had failed to reverse the decline. The formation of the CPG represented an initially tentative move from separate and, in some ways, parochial and competitive attempts to tackle the economic, demographic, and social decline of the three cities to focus on collaboration as a vehicle for repositioning and reinvigorating its competitive advantages over a ten-year period.

The CPG model is unique. The long-term involvement of multiple stakeholders with all levels of government is clearly essential for overcoming previous failures. Initiatives that are capable of doing this, and of remaining stable, deserve the label best practice. For these and other reasons the CPG, which is both stable and a bridge between local and central government, is a candidate for best practice.”¹²

Harvey and Cheers (2011) in their review of the USGCPG noted that “previous attempts to strengthen the regional economy through government programs had failed to reverse the decline” experienced by each of the cities. The ineffectiveness of programs in the face of technological change and international change in markets could reasonably have been predicted. A comprehensive integrated strategy was required then and is required now to create sustainable competitive advantage.

The researchers were advised that the strategic priorities (Table 2.1) identified by the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group were adjusted following meetings with the Olympic Dam Taskforce and Economic Development Board, although the manner or mechanism by which each of the priorities are to be achieved is unclear.

Table 2.1
Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priorities as at March 2012	
Planning Framework	BHP Billiton Engagement
Infrastructure Master Plan ¹	SA 30 year Regional Plan/City Structure Plan
Population and Workforce Attraction	Industry Skills Hub
Royalties for Regions	Mining School
Impact of Mining Boom	Fly-in/Fly-out Capacity

Note: ¹ Utilities, transport, education, university, health and social infrastructure.

The strategic priorities are essentially related to natural resource extraction, investment in support of the minerals and resources sector, the provision of infrastructure and high level engagement related to capturing the benefits of industry development plans. It is also unclear the extent of research work to be undertaken to support achievement of the priorities, how for example, a mining school and industry skills hub link to development plans for regional TAFE SA facilities, the strategic plans of BHP Billiton and other mining companies and how development work of other parties is coordinated by the USGCPG.

¹¹ Harvey, J and Cheers, B (2011), “The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group: a model of intra-regional cooperation for economic development”, in *Governance and planning of mega-city regions: an international comparative perspective*, Routledge Studies in Human Geography. Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon, pp. 191-210.

¹² “Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group: a model of inter-regional cooperation”, <http://eprints.jcu.edu.au/19604>

RDA Membership

Regional Development Australia (RDA) organisations have membership on the USGCPG and are strongly supported by the local councils within each of the regions.

The RDA membership effectively strengthens the advocacy role of the USGCPG. Membership extends the reach of the USGCPG as RDA Committees 'are encouraged to work together on projects and activities where they have a common interest and common boundaries'. The "common interest" can extend to economic and investment growth, social inclusion, education and environmental issues; it can extend to discussions with the Commonwealth, State government, the business community as the USGCPG and the RDAs speak on behalf of 164,000 persons in the region, accounting for 10 per cent of gross state product (and rising).

The Memorandum of Understanding between the three tiers of government to establish RDA(SA) agreed to integrate regional development activities in South Australia through RDA(SA) for the benefit of South Australian communities.

The aims of the RDA(SA) Committees were agreed as, to:

- improve the coordination and delivery of regional development initiatives;
- deliver local input into national programs and help co-ordinate development initiatives at the regional and local level;
- work with the three spheres of government as a key linking organisation to empower communities in regional development activity;
- provide advisory and support services to business, State Government and Local Government Bodies and the Commonwealth in the regions;
- provide local input to governments on the effectiveness and delivery of policies and programs in the regions;
- consult and provide advice on local issues confronting the regions; and
- provide a shop front for business development services.

The three RDA bodies are an example of a **working model of collaboration** and they can extend their influence and support the advocacy role of the USGCPG. They share common regional priorities (see Box 1, page vii) that are capable of being addressed through mechanisms established by the USGCPG.

On local leadership ...

The Regional Australia Minister the Hon Simon Crean has consistently referred to "**localism and the importance of local leadership**" as the key to regional competitiveness, building stronger communities and sustainable economic growth.

"It is only through identifying local opportunities and good on-the-ground knowledge that practical and effective solutions are developed. Localism is the key to turning challenges into competitive advantages; localism can be the greatest generator of our nation's collective strength, diversity and prosperity"¹³

¹³ "Localism is key to sustainable communities", The Hon Simon Crean, Press release 18 April, 2012.

“RDAs are there as facilitators, mentors and brokers on regional development. RDAs are built around the connection of people with a vision for their region. Regional development is not about lines on the map or electoral boundaries. It is backing strategic visions that will boost local communities and regions.”¹⁴

RDA National Charter specifies that RDA, will in consultation with the community, business, non profit organisations and all levels of government, articulate local priorities, identify and align resources, engage stakeholders and **promote solutions**, thereby supporting the growth and development of regional communities across the country. RDA committee members are local people developing local solutions to local issues. A specific role of each RDA is to build partnerships to develop strategies and deliver sustainable infrastructure and services to their regions and across regions such as the Eyre and Whyalla, Far North and Yorke and Mid North. The National Charter also specifies that RDA committees:

- consult and engage with communities;
- promote and participate in regional programs and initiatives;
- provide information and advice on their region to all levels of government, and
- support informed regional planning.

On local collaboration, local solutions.....

Solutions to local and regional issues are expected from the RDA Committees as Minister Crean has stated on a number of occasions that “... we want solutions coming up from local communities not being imposed from above by Canberra”. Local empowerment and decision making can be advanced through collaboration to then develop ‘considered proposals that promote local interests in an efficient, productive and sustainable way’. Effective local empowerment is about the needs and aspirations of local communities but those communities **must first set a vision for the community/region**, they must identify/address key challenges and problems and reach consensus/agreed solutions or pathways to the future. The philosophy behind the RDA and local empowerment is that decisions about economic, social and environmental wellbeing be made by the people most affected by those decisions,¹⁵ in part because they know the “strengths of their region; they know where the opportunities lie; and they are best-placed to identify the key action priorities for their region.”¹⁶

On education and regional development ...

One of the foundations of economic growth, of innovation, entrepreneurship and community development is all forms of education including early childhood, pre-school, primary and secondary school, vocational and tertiary education. Family (e.g., children of more educated parents achieve more schooling), community, neighbourhoods and peers are also significant agents for education and learning.

The quality, availability, accessibility and participation in education directly influence the quality of the workforce, workforce skills, aptitudes and abilities and productivity. Education is fundamental to human capital, to workforce participation, productivity and for the individual, income, status, civic participation and citizenship. Education is a key driver of regional development and is an important policy lever for the USGCPG.

¹⁴ “Driving regional economic development through localism”, the Hon Simon Crean, Address to Regional Development Australia National Forum, Canberra 3rd March 2011.

¹⁵ Premier Weatherill expressed the same sentiment when he reversed the decision to close the ferry service at Cadell.

¹⁶ “Driving Economic Growth-A Regional Dimension”, the Hon Simon Crean, Address to the Press Club, September 2010.

The Upper Spencer Gulf has the basic infrastructure for all forms of education for life-long learning. The region will soon be home to three Universities—a regional campus of the University of Adelaide (Port Augusta), the University of South Australia (Whyalla) and the Flinders University Marine Science Centre (Port Lincoln), it has vocational training facilities, primary and secondary government and non-government schools and other related infrastructure and services, so the challenge is to maximise the opportunities available to it.

The Regional Australia Minister, the Hon Simon Crean has noted;

“It is the fact that those who are trained in the region tend to stay in the region. So if we are committed to the notion of strengthening our regions, education becomes a critical component.”¹⁷

Regional development role of human capital

Developments in economic theory particularly since the mid-1980s point to the importance of education and the quality of human capital as key drivers of economic growth. The new theories—under the title of New Growth Theory or endogenous growth theory—represent a challenge to traditional neoclassical economics that essentially argued that economic growth derived from technological developments or progress. The problem for neoclassical economics in arguing the role of technology as the source of growth was its inability to explain how new technologies or innovations came about. Clearly one source might have been domestic and international trade where technology is embedded in traded goods. But how was one country for example able to achieve consistently higher rates of productivity growth relative to another (in contemporary terms, say Germany relative to Greece).

New Growth Theory or endogenous growth theory posits that growth comes from within an economic system or region (it is endogenous) and the source of economic growth is education, the development of human capital, the application of knowledge, and research and development, which is applied to develop new technology, product and process innovation and more effective and efficient means of production or the delivery of services. Investment in education is critical, not only for the individual (i.e., private benefits) but for the public good as well (i.e., there are social benefits or externalities such as higher workforce participation, generic and higher workforce skills, improvements in productivity, more innovation, sharing of knowledge, etc).

We are not here simply referring to higher education. One of the most significant new growth theorists, Paul Romer (1989) in series of articles from cross country studies concluded that “the initial level of literacy has a distinct explanatory role in cross country regressions for per capita income growth”¹⁸. He furthered argued that the level of literacy seemed to be ‘significantly related to investment’ and per capita income growth.

So general improvements in early childhood education, pre-school and primary school, and then secondary education are critical to future economic outcomes for the individual and the community/region. The basic level of literacy and numeracy matters and is the foundation for workforce participation, for productivity in the workforce and

¹⁷ “Driving Economic Development in Regional Australia”, the Hon Simon Crean, 17 February 2011 University of New England, Armidale.

¹⁸ “Human Capital and Growth: Theory and Evidence” Paul Romer, University of Chicago April 1989

for participation in higher education, whether that be vocational or university based. Overall, improvements in education lead to improvements in economic growth; they are closely linked:

“The main engine of growth is the accumulation of human capital – or knowledge – and the main source of differences in living standards among nations is a difference in human capital. Physical capital plays an essential but decidedly subsidiary role.”¹⁹

So, education matters!

This introduction/discussion does not specify what reforms or initiatives should be undertaken within the Upper Spencer Gulf in regard to education. The researchers consider some of the initiatives data on education in the region later in the report. However, we do consider that prioritisation of ‘excellence in education’ performance and opportunity for all people in the region is critical for sustainable regional development. This should be on the agenda for the USGCPG.

On regional development and social capital ...

Mitchell and Stimson (2010) summarise the regional science literature when modelling a range of variables to explain regional economic growth that the following “may influence regional economic growth performance:

- industrial structure, including industry specialisation and structural change;
- population size and growth;
- labour force participation;
- human capital (skills) and income distribution;
- occupational shifts;
- social capital; and
- creative capital.”²⁰

The variables could be reduced to physical capital (e.g., infrastructure, plant and equipment, industry), human capital (population, education, labour force, skills, etc) natural capital or resources (e.g., land, minerals, oil, etc) and social capital (e.g., networks, trust, community, arts, volunteerism, etc).

Recently in the Upper Spencer Gulf there have been a number of studies into the infrastructure requirements across the region to support the minerals and resources industry including, *inter alia*, the demand for energy, water, housing and the potential impact on transport networks (see Appendix B).

Issues related to planning for physical capital have received considerable attention by state government and mining companies, there are studies related to human capital but relatively little attention has been paid to the role of social capital as the foundation for human capital.

¹⁹ Lucas, Robert. (1993) “Making a Miracle.” *Econometrica*, 61:251-72.

²⁰ William Mitchell and Robert Stimson, (2010) “Creating a new geography of Functional Economic Regions to analyse aspects of labour market performance in Australia”. Working Paper No. 10-09

But it is social capital that is critical because social capital is the asset “that can be enlarged or maintained via policy to address a wide variety of problems including: poor economic performance, high rates of morbidity, poor educational achievement, social isolation of immigrant communities and environmental degradation.”²¹

The World Bank (1999) has brought together a range of statistics to make the case for the social and economic benefits of social capital. For example they argue that there is evidence that schools are more effective when parents and local citizens are actively involved. Teachers are more committed, students achieve higher test scores, and better use is made of school facilities in those communities where parents and citizens take an active interest in children’s educational well-being. There are a considerable number of scholarly articles²² that argue the early childhood development is significantly influenced by social capital (i.e., networks of people, services, trust, reciprocity), including family, community and peers and that this impacts on educational achievement. Social capital appears to be the foundation for the development of human capital and better education performance.

There are numerous definitions of social capital that most often refer to relational elements between people such as shared values and norms, trust, voluntary association and networks of shared interest. Those writing about “social capital” frequently refer to three main types or categories of social capital:

- bonds: people who share a common identify, culture, ethnicity or in a family, relations and friends;
- bridges: networks or links that stretch out to those with a shared sense of identity, such as within occupational or status groups; and
- linkages: vertical connections that link people up or down on some scale such as economic or social class.

The categories are then used to explain that, for example, bonds can be positive (inclusive) or negative (exclusive). That is to say they can be used to exclude others “who are not like us” or who do not share similar cultural values or norms.

Social inclusion is an idea that derives from social capital; it identifies groups/families/ individuals who are socially isolated and marginalised and seeks to address economic and social marginalisation.

We have used the concept of social capital because it is the platform for the development of human capital and the social and economic development of regions. It is concerned with human resources available to regions, or what we sometimes refer to as endogenous assets (i.e., within the community). A community is strengthened, not depleted by greater use of its human resources, inclusiveness and all efforts to reduce marginalisation of all its citizens.

Physical infrastructure that links people such as public transport systems and time of day scheduling, public spaces, shared services at critical life stages such as child care centres and participation in community organisations, according to social capital theorists, results in lower crime rates, improved health and mitigation of the negative

²¹ Grafton, R Q (2007) Social Capital: A Policy Perspective, Crawford School of Economics and Government, ANU.
²² http://www.infed.org/biblio/social_capital.htm

impacts of socio-economic disadvantage. The individual, family, local neighbourhood, employers/business and the region will, it is claimed, benefit socially and economically from efforts to strengthen and build social capital.

In 2011 in community consultations related to the update of the State Strategic Plan (SASP) responses from individuals and communities (see Table 2.2) generally did not refer to the priorities of the USGCPG or the indicators in the SASP; they reflected a **social capital clustering** of priorities –

- family, youth, community, strengthening;
- education, life skills, creativity;
- health, well-being, quality of life;
- employment (especially for youth), economic diversity; and
- the place, image, design of where people live.

Table 2.2
Update of the State Strategic Plan (SASP) responses from individuals and communities

Yorke, Mid North, South Flinders Ranges		Far North, Whyalla and Roxby Downs	
Importance of Family, Sense of Community/Youth	40	Family, youth, sense of community/culture	71
Health, well being, fit for life	34	Economy, jobs, investment	59
Economic Diversity, Primary Production	30	Environment, Green Energy, Renewables	54
Environment, water, sustainability, innovation	27	Image, town design	44
Local decision making	22	Health and wellbeing, work/life	43
Education, learning, creativity, skills for living	17	Education	41
Social inclusion, Aboriginal recognition	13	Transport *	31
Importance of Infrastructure	11	Greater local decision making	33
Community resilience	10	Housing	29
Natural Resources Management	9	Tourism	20
Regional plans	6	Social inclusion, multiculturalism, safety, low crime	19
Total	219	Volunteerism	12
		Sport facilities, amenities, arts, culture	10
		Total	466

Note: * Significant in that only mentioned in Pt Augusta.

Again, this is why we have introduced the concept of social capital because this is what people say; this is what principally matters to individuals and families and this is what regional communities (assisted by government) can influence.

Starting from what matters to individuals, families and young people a priority is to consider who and what “infrastructure bring people together” and thereby address the *social capital cluster* of interests and priorities.

3. Terms of Reference

- The general research question or hypothesis was “how well is the Upper Spencer Gulf positioned to take advantage of the economic and social benefits of expansion of the mining sector”.
- The challenge for the region is to build a workforce and community that can meet the requirements of the minerals and resources sector, supportive industries and economic diversification occurring across the region.
- The new knowledge economy requires a more adaptable workforce with foundation skills including literacy and numeracy.
- The old industrial structure of the region of rail, engineering, power, minerals processing will continue but the ageing infrastructure developed around older technologies needs renewal.
- Education infrastructure including the delivery of social, health and family programs likewise needs renewal.
- The research project is a strategic review of the activities of the USGCPG, how to establish mechanisms to advance the common purpose, decide priorities and progress the vision for the region.

The USGCPG commissioned the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES) to prepare a study of the region, specifically to consider opportunities to maximise employment, to consider how best to assist those who are currently marginalised in the labour market and to position the entire region to maximise the benefits from investment in the minerals, resources and associated supporting industries.

The project was supported by DEEWR. DEEWR are active in the region, most notably to implement further strategies for literacy and numeracy, providing support for Indigenous elders, families and trainees and additional support to labour market training programs. The region is a priority employment area. The region is home to 34 per cent of the State’s Aboriginal population. It is currently implementing a COAG Closing the Gap initiative, the Urban and Regional Strategy in Port Augusta. The Urban and Regional Strategy is a broad ranging initiative with a particular emphasis on education, early childhood development, schooling, health, economic participation and healthy homes/communities.

However, this study ...

“... is not just about the ‘system’ now, including TAFE, Schools, labour market interventions, schools funding, Indigenous, etc. It starts from a hypothesis that the scale and scope of developments in the mining sector, the significant impact of investment in exploration, in energy, in ports and desalination and economic diversification taking place in the region, coupled with the fact that this “boom/development’ is not a short term event that will be gone in 3 to 5 years, is (potentially) a ‘game changer’.”

The USGCPG sought SACES assistance to consider how to plan for the region, in order to maximise community participation, better target resources, negotiate more effectively with companies and government agencies and help to improve education and labour market outcomes so that ‘locals get jobs’.

The USGCPG, DEEWR and local agencies put forward the following questions:

- What needs to adapt and change in response to opportunities before the region?
- How best to assist those who are currently marginalised so that they are not further marginalised?
- What is the reality for schools and school-leavers and how best to assist?
- What role for IEP, LLNP, WELL and the ACE program and how best to connect Indigenous Adult learning with their children/students at school?
- What is the role of the University of Adelaide investing in the region, what courses/programs could be offered and how best to link into the region?
- How to inform DEEWR, DECD, DFEEST and FaHCSIA to collaborate and develop pathways for individuals and families?
- How to strengthen decisions/actions taken by Indigenous Communities to build education futures?

The project should consider a strategy and mechanisms to assist the USGCPG, government agencies, the councils, the RDAs and mining companies to more comprehensively respond to the opportunities that will come the way of the region.

“They go right back to improving literacy and numeracy for all young people, in integrating pathways, in supporting the investment of the University of Adelaide and the University linking into the economy and community, that the DECD new structure and programs are supported, that JSA refers clients to pre-vocational training and Skills for All, that there is high take-up of apprenticeships and that the infrastructure is in place to address future labour, skill, housing and community development demand.”

The minerals and resources sector is a substantial focus for on-going training courses, but SACES was advised to also consider the energy sector which is taken to include wind farm developments, hot rocks, solar technology, sustainable energy generation, water requirements for the mining sector, gas fired power stations, ports and related infrastructure and other industries such as inland aquaculture and the growth in employment that will occur as a result of an increase in population, higher regional incomes and household consumption expenditures.

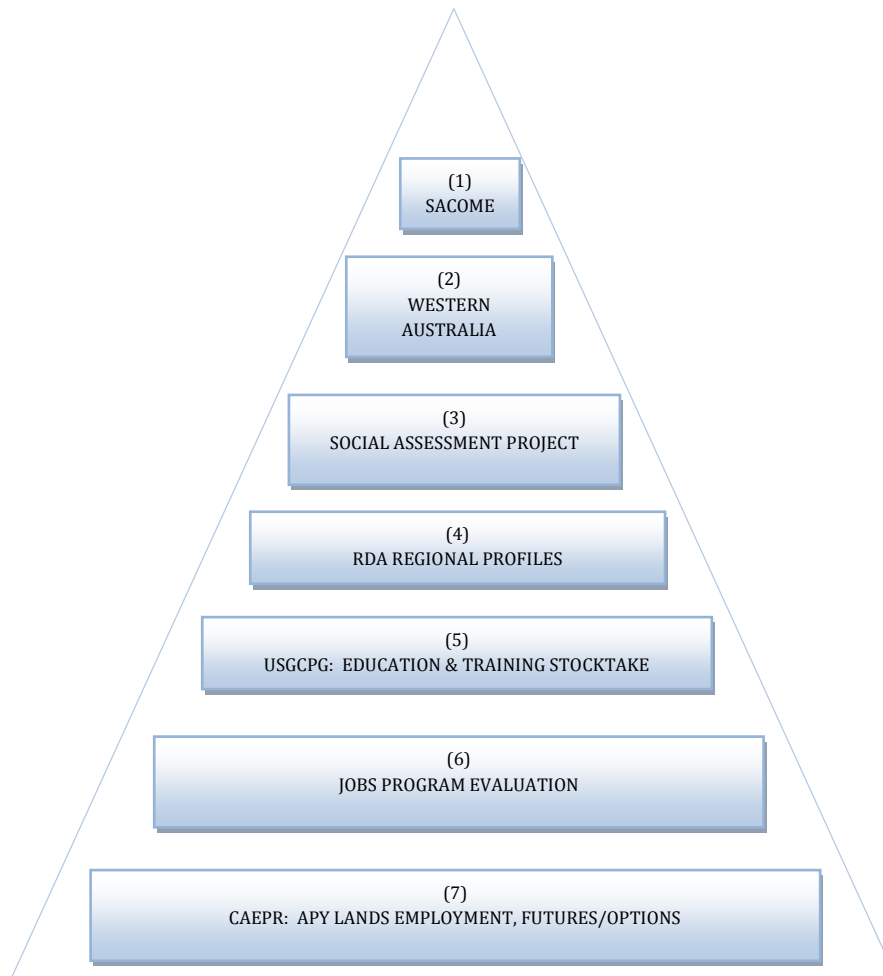
The discovery of mineral resources has ‘shone the spotlight’ on the region and created demand for new physical infrastructure, but even without these developments, the new knowledge economy, demographic changes, global export opportunities and the demand for a more highly skilled workforce are presenting opportunities for the larger region.

In considering future regional strategies the USGCPG requested SACES to draw upon other studies being undertaken with relevance to the region (see Figure 3.1) including, *inter alia*, industry economic impact assessment, a framework to monitor social impacts, regional profiles (see Appendix A) and a series of labour market program evaluations in the region.

The hypothesis/the question is: how well is the Upper Spencer Gulf positioned to take advantage of new employment opportunities (i.e., now), how well are education providers resourced to meet the challenge (i.e., what is the current throughput), what is required to maximise current opportunities for young people in the school to work transition phase of their life (recall the COAG agenda that all 15-19 years olds will need

to be at school, in employment or in training in 2012), plus reforms to Indigenous Employment Programs and phase out of CDEP in some regions, all of which will need to be responded to in a systematic way.

Figure 3.1:



- (1) Industry sponsored, economic impact assessment, labour demand, direct/indirect impacts, regional/statewide, input-output analysis.
- (2) Funding bid (supported by BHP Billiton, SACOME) to University of Adelaide to explore critical lessons from mining developments in Western Australia including at the local, regional and state level.
- (3) Template to evaluate/inform social assessment of mining.
- (4) Seven regional profiles for RDAs/LGAs, including major projects.
- (5) Regional assessment and stocktake of education, training and community capacity, Upper Spencer Gulf Region.
- (6) Review of large scale Aboriginal Training Initiative (JOBS program).
- (7) APY Indigenous employment, mining social development.

The challenge for the Commonwealth and State government and the region is to build a workforce and community that can meet the employment requirements of the minerals and resources sector and supportive industries, and at the same time provide the high quality, human capital necessary for innovation in agriculture, manufacturing and service industries, research, design, installation, maintenance of new energy industries (e.g., solar, wind technology in first instance). Benefits of economic growth need to be retained and be visible in the region.

The growth of the minerals and resources sector, the direct employment it generates including in manufacturing, heavy engineering, transport and transport logistics, road and rail shipment and then flow-on impacts arising from consumption expenditure in food, retail, housing, entertainment, etc. provide significant growth opportunities for the Far-North, Yorke and Mid North and Eyre and Western regions of South Australia.

Two components – impact of expansion in the minerals and resource sector and improving all aspects of education and training – need to be undertaken concurrently and they are linked in this sense; that the development and subsequent expansion of the minerals and resources sector will create a range of additional training and skill demands, across all sectors of the economy so we are dealing with ‘scope and scale’ effects. The education and training sectors will need to be responsive, but they also need assistance to understand new directions in employment, that skills and training will flow from investment in the minerals and resource sector, from transport services and from infrastructure development, so that programs can be tailored to maximise increased participation in education and employment in the Priority Employment Area.

The research project was supported by the USGCPG, the three RDAs covering the region and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). The region under study, principally taking in Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Peterborough and the Far North will provide employees from the Priority Employment Area to the mining and related industries. The study also includes references to the wider Eyre Region as it is also experiencing growth in the mining sector and employment and skills demand more broadly. DEEWR is a key partner in this research project as it sought for the project to engage with education providers, with industry and with strategic leaders in the priority employment area, to help establish and strengthen community-based structures and leadership groups (e.g., USGCPG), the RDAs and educational provision/pathways to achieve higher regional employment outcomes.

In providing funding support to the study, DEEWR noted that benefits of integrating results from a range of research projects being undertaken by SACES, specifically:

“The most significant outcome is an integration of economic analysis, employment analysis and, hence, training demand for this Priority Region. The availability of this information will resolve the focus of DEEWR, RDA and key state agencies in determining strategies and priorities for this region and the PEA. While studies exist on infrastructure or employment, none have an integrated economic impact assessment with employment and training demand to increase the proportion of local employees (and hence regional incomes) that are included in this significant review. This will enable a far more comprehensive understanding of the training effort required and will incorporate external developments such as the intention of Adelaide University to locate in Port Augusta (including underutilisation of existing assets).”

This project cannot (and was not intended) to document education and training providers, organisations, activities and courses currently available in the region nor provide a wish list of infrastructure projects. It is concerned with a strategic review of the activities of the USGCPG, how to establish mechanisms to advance the common purpose, decide priorities and achieve progress on the vision for the future. It is a high level overview rather than an exercise in “documenting activity”.

Centre staff and associate researchers conducted interviews and meetings to identify priorities for the region; we have reviewed reports, plans and studies to draw out priorities and recommendations and considered national initiatives for the region.

There is a wealth of activity occurring in the cities and regions and there is immense goodwill and commitment from many stakeholders. As an example, take activities in the City of Port Augusta:

- Urban and Regional Strategy (3 tiers of government);
- Aboriginal Community Engagement Group (following Lew Owens' and other reports);
- DECD's Port Augusta Learning Precinct and Empowering Local Schools Partnership Initiative (plus in-school activities);
- TAFE Regional SA with Skills for All and South Australia Works;
- Studies in training and capability and workforce capability (RESA);
- RDA initiatives;
- Innovative Community Action Networks (ICAN);
- University of Adelaide proposal to establish in the region;
- DEEWR programs and Local Employment Coordinator activities;
- the work of many Indigenous support organisations;
- proposals for STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and "youth university" concept supported by DECD;
- current training courses plus additional courses sponsored by mining companies (e.g., Oz Minerals, BHP Billiton); and
- Building Family Opportunity programs and funding.

Notwithstanding there is palpable concern that the region needs to take decisive action to capture the benefits of investment in mining, that it needs to dramatically improve education outcomes (attendance, literacy and numeracy, employment), that communities need to become more inclusive, to do more to help those who are marginalised and to not accept mediocrity/passivity. Individuals, stakeholders, organisations want to see substantial gains/improvements, they want to measure and see visible progress, they want feedback that progress is being achieved.

In summary, the long term benefits arising from this exercise will flow from supporting the USGCPG to decide priorities and achieve progress on its vision for the future. To do that it requires new mechanisms to research and report on key drivers of change, it will be well served by financial support from government who in turn will benefit from local collaboration and leadership that is best able to promote local solutions to local challenges.

4. Reflections on the Role and Purpose of the USGCPG

- The USGCPG is the “go to” body for central government agencies and mining companies active in the region. It is the principal agency, strengthened by RDA membership, with a focus on economic development and strategic planning for the region.
- The USGCPG should consider the appointment of an independent Chair rotating on a two year basis, supported by a full-time Executive Officer. This position should be financially supported by participating councils and the State government.
- A limited number of sub-committees/working committees would address, commission research and formulate policy positions on key issues for agreement of the USGCPG, for action to then be taken. Membership of sub-committees would be knowledgeable leaders in the relevant fields, they may include State and Commonwealth government officials. A sub-committee may be established (and resourced) upon request from State or Commonwealth government.
- It is the responsibility of the USGCPG, working from the bottom-up to engage DECD to achieve the vision of 21st Century Education precincts across the region.,

This Section considers respondent feedback on the role and purpose of the USGCPG, ways to improve effectiveness and progress key issues and the importance of local leadership. All respondents reported a desire to upgrade educational infrastructure and acknowledged the role of education in workforce participation. We provide some data on education and workforce participation and consider the importance of the USGCPG in working closely with DECD to create Education Precincts.

The USGCPG has a long history, born out of adversity, job losses and impacts of globalisation on the three regional cities and smaller towns in the region.²³ As economic circumstances have changed, the USGCPG has shifted its attention to strategic responses to the minerals and resources sector, to capturing the benefits of the mining industry and to the provision of physical and social infrastructure across the region. The membership of the USGCPG provides the common purpose group with a legitimacy (as elected representatives and/or holder of official positions) to represent, advocate and plan for the region.

The region is a priority region for the Commonwealth government and agencies due to the prospects of a larger mining and export industry, the potential contribution of the region to national food bowl output and exports, investment in green technologies, the strategic importance of the defence sector and because economic and social conditions for Indigenous persons and others in the region warrant attention (e.g., COAG: Closing the Gap, Literacy and Numeracy, Early Childhood Development).

For these and many other reasons it is important that State and Commonwealth government agencies work through and support the USGCPG. Major companies also want to work through a single agency to speed efficiency and effectiveness of decision making – in the interests of a mining operations – but also to more appropriately target philanthropic activities and investment in communities and regions in which mining companies operate. The USGCPG was described to the researchers as the “go to body” for the region.

²³ SACES (1998), “Building An Economic Community: A Turn Around Strategy for the Upper Spencer Gulf Region to 2010”.

Accordingly, the researchers posed a number of questions to selected individuals (members and non-members of the USGCPG) to assess perspectives on the recent performance of USGCPG, future directions and key issues. The respondents were asked to consider the:

- effectiveness of the Common Purpose Group and relationship with the Provincial Cities Association;
- identification of possible mechanisms to advance consideration of key issues;
- role of leadership within the cities and local communities;
- performance, accountability and transparency in regard to the delivery of services, the measurement of outcomes and desire to achieve 'best practice';
- revenue base to support economic and community development within the cities and the limitations this imposes on collaboration and action (e.g., in following up so many good reports on issues within the region, including responses to new investment opportunities and the expansion of the minerals and resources sector); and the
- status of education and educational outcomes within the region including how best to work towards raising the aspirations of the local community, helping jobless families and consideration of the critical intervention points to advance economic and community well being.

Effectiveness of the USGCPG ...

Externally, the Common Purpose Group (as representatives of the three northern cities) is perceived as 'a common economic bloc', 'a common industrial bloc' so that it is well placed to represent or lobby for the 'common purpose' and it is well placed to play a part in economic and social issues that are common to each city and the region. There was an agreed position that the three councils should continue to address local government agenda items as individual councils through the LGA, that the Provincial Cities Association is the appropriate forum to promote regionalism and appropriate systems of governance, while the Common Purpose Group should focus on Economic Development and Strategic Planning for the cities of Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie and their associated hinterland.

The RDA membership on the USGCPG does mean that wider regional concerns are part of the agenda, but notwithstanding, it is apparent that the same issues are relevant to the three cities as they are for smaller regional centres and the three RDA regions. Expansion of mining activity across the three regions, renewal of ageing infrastructure, diversifying the economic base of the region, growth in coastal populations were cited as examples of the regions sharing similar concerns/opportunities.

A perspective on the agenda of the USGCPG was that too much time is devoted to road, infrastructure and planning issues pertinent to individual cities rather than a strategic review of items that are relevant to the three cities (e.g., potential impact of carbon pricing).

Effectiveness of the USGCPG could be enhanced. To provide a boost to the USGCPG it was proposed to have an independent chair, position the group as an Economic, Social and Strategic planning body with a highly focused agenda. The USGCPG would be supported by a full-time Executive Officer who would oversee working groups set up by

the USGCPG and act as the liaison point for State and Commonwealth government contact and information.

The USGCPG would act as the primary governance structure for policy and regional development – with a consistent focus on the whole region – so that Commonwealth, State agencies and the private sector when dealing with regional issues would see the USGCPG as the first contact point. Respondents outlined several key functions:

- be a strategic planning body with legitimate interest and a coordination role on economic, social and environmental issues;
- be a generator of information for evidenced based, policy informed, planning and program development;
- act as a receiver and distributor of information; and
- the principal interface agency with the mining sector with a responsibility to ensure social and community benefits from mining and a role to mitigate negative impacts on the cities and region.

A comparison with the performance of the Provincial Cities Association (PCA) and the USGCPG highlighted the benefits of research and policy papers prepared for the PCA on regional issues that had contributed to successes and effectiveness of the PCA.

Suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the USGCPG was that it must lead in the establishment of sub-committees/working committees or groups to research, address and formulate policy positions that are then discussed, debated and agreed by the USGCPG and referred on as required. In short, to support decision making for the region – which is the power and responsibility of the USGCPG – it requires a mechanism of sub-committees that explore/research/report on issues that will advance the region.

“If the group desires to exercise leadership, to operate at a higher level of interaction and intensity, to then speak with a common voice, it must address and deliver on those issues of importance to people in the region, industry and local government in the region.

The exercise of leadership is to bring knowledgeable others into the process. Who better to examine investment in C21 education precincts than regional education managers, a DECD representative, industry, community representatives, an RDA member with an independent chair. Who better to examine early childhood services and their adequacy than service providers, primary school representatives, members of Aboriginal Communities, health providers? Who should work with mining operators to consider the location and construction of ports and related infrastructure – an RDA representative, Council representative, the Business Chamber with company personnel.”

Respondents considered that the “common purpose” was also to uncover/generate new ideas, innovation, vitality that acted to retain and attract people and hence attract investment.

Respondents also made clear that the three cities (and other provincial cities) are distantly located from Adelaide and central policy making bureaucracy, so that USGCPG shoulder responsibility for more than simply local government issues. This is reinforced to the extent central government has difficulty in planning for regional development, that it has not successfully been able to regionalise a State (really a city central) Strategic Plan and develop policy that is sensitive to regional locations. Notwithstanding

perceptions and sentiments, the responsibility for, and leadership of, the three regional centres rests with the relevant councils and the RDAs and they have available to them the USGCPG to work collectively and collaboratively on regional issues.

In summary, the general opinion was that to increase the effectiveness of the USGCPG then the group needed to focus on the common purpose of Economic Development and Strategic Planning for the region. In addition, it was considered that effectiveness would be enhanced by having an independent Chair rotating on a two year basis, serviced by a full-time Executive Officer. A full-time Executive Officer would require financial support of the State government and local councils.

A mechanism to advance key issues

The USGCPG currently does not have working committees or groups under it addressing and advancing issues and reporting back to the USGCPG. While priority issues are identified (and they are very high level: see USGCPG priorities) there does not appear to be a mechanism or process to strategically research, analyse and advance (i.e., find solutions) to issues of concern. While there is an Implementation Team made up of the Executive Officer (part-time) and the constituent CEO's, this does not constitute a viable mechanism to deal with significant issues that are both complex and that are common to each of the cities. Importantly, without a mechanism to engage the relevant experts and stakeholders then the USGCPG is limiting its own ability to 'reach out and to collaborate' with those who are in a position to address infrastructure, investment, social and community issues. While one respondent felt that sub-groups or working groups are not a "must have" tool to effectively manage issues of concern the majority considered a need for working groups to address key economic and strategic planning issues supported by a full-time Executive Officer.

Working groups on specific issues would be chaired by the most appropriate person, including co-opting an external chair of a working group as required. There would be no prohibition on inviting government representatives onto a working group. The working groups would effectively be sub-committees of the USGCPG and would be directed to focus on achieving outcomes for the region (i.e., find solutions to key problems).

Several respondents compared the performance of the Provincial Cities Association with those of the USGCPG, noting that the PCA had been successful in putting forward a regional perspective, in negotiations with government and "advancing the chosen cause". Policy positions were based on sound research and then a unanimous voice. This observation was intended as a "guide post" to illustrate the need for research/policy sub-committees as a way to increase the effectiveness of the USGCPG and to demonstrate what the USGCPG could achieve on issues common to each of the cities as it is a unique geographical clustering and the cities have a common industrial base and common economic and social issues to address.

On local leadership ...

The Councils, RDAs and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry were most often identified as local leaders, although what appears interesting in this respect is that councils and business chambers are occasionally critical of each other. This suggests rather fractured leadership and/or an inability to find common ground. As one

respondent noted, and the researchers maintain this is part of the challenge for the USGCPG:

“In relation to the USGCPG it would require us to operate at a far greater level of interaction and intensity supported by high quality research on the key drivers of regional development. This is necessary so as to be able to speak with a common voice with total unity and absolute consistency.”

The researchers have discussed the importance of local leadership and illustrated that leadership is a process that involves collaboration and engagement of a range of stakeholders with expertise and a legitimate interest in finding solutions to problems. Leadership can be found in the community, in the education system, in the health system, in the local sporting community, in the business community; it does not have to come directly from membership of the USGCPG, from Council or the business community.

For example, who is best placed to consider the challenge of literacy and numeracy in the school and post-school system? Employers are vitally interested in this issue, although most likely it is school Principals, ICAN providers, the Indigenous community, TAFE/VET, major social service and JSA providers, Centrelink and the ACE sector that are ‘closest to the issue’ and are key stakeholders in developing solutions²⁴. The Commonwealth, including FaHCSIA and DEEWR, and an RDA could also be invited on such a group. A sub-group on this issue does not have to involve a member of the USGCPG although the agenda item is critical to the economic development of the region, workforce participation, tackling unemployment and civic participation

Defining a role and taking action ...

An outstanding feature of the Upper Spencer Gulf region has been the number of reports and studies conducted in the region yet almost all agreed with the researchers that there was very little to show for all this effort. Most thought this to be an accurate assessment, in part due to the fact that Council were ‘trying to do too much with too few resources and without appropriate skills’. Councils are frequently drawn away from the key role as administrators of a service delivery entity with clear requirements under the Local Government Act and do not have surplus funds for development activities.

Re-thinking approaches to regional development implies that Councils play a coordinating role through bodies such as the USGCPG, that the common purpose is used to frame a strategic regional economic and community agenda and then for Councils to work very closely with the RDAs, the LGA and state and commonwealth agencies. There is considerable evidence of Councils partnering with outside agencies to achieve specific goals with their local community. Councils generally have funds set aside for community development and events but they do not have sufficient resources to maintain economic or community development sections within councils. This is further reason why the USGCPG needs to work through and establish collaborative relationships with stakeholders, to draw in leadership from the community to address strategic development issues backed-up with solid research and policy relevant recommendations.

²⁴ The literacy and numeracy challenge applies equally to non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities so we have not indicated in this example that the sub-group might have Indigenous representation, but there is no reason why not.

Education infrastructure and perceptions

Respondents indicated unhappiness with the negotiations between the respective cities and DECD in the past over various proposals to improve the facilities at public schools in the region. There are two sides to every story; those in the region maintain that the various proposals were 'poorly argued and sold' to each of the communities. The Department would argue that in almost every instance the local community or school council voted against reform proposals.

Notwithstanding, what is clear is that public schools are in need of serious attention, in respect of facilities, student achievement and progression, attendance rates, completion rates and literacy and numeracy. These are not issues that can be addressed solely by individual schools (nor DECD) as they are deeply rooted in community attitudes, aspirations and acceptance of the status quo. However, just as the ageing industrial infrastructure of the region needs revitalisation so to do the schools and community attitudes towards supporting achievement in schools.

The three cities have an opportunity, with the assistance of the Commonwealth and State Government, to develop 21st Century education precincts that cater for all of the community, including strengthening the provision of adult community education (ACE) and vocational education (VET/TAFE).

An opportunity is available to each of the three provincial cities to establish **21st Century world class education precincts**. In each of the cities there are proximate geographically located primary and secondary schools, adjacent to TAFE Institutes (and the University at Whyalla), other vocational training facilities, to sporting facilities and community centres. There are funding bids to develop the Port Augusta TAFE Campus, the University of South Australia is commencing new courses and the University of Adelaide is conducting feasibility studies and business planning with a view to location in Port Augusta.

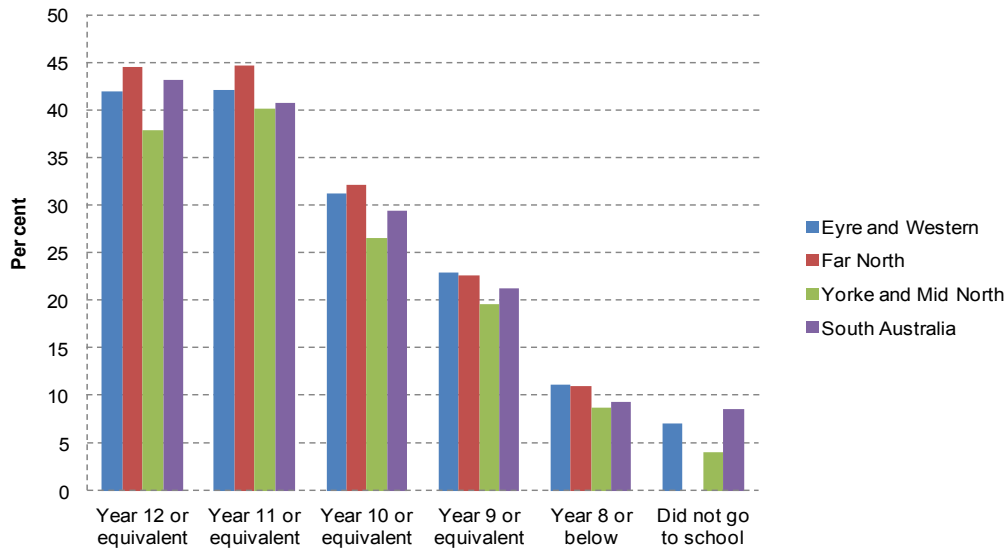
Education and skills – they are key drivers of economic development and local employment. Enriching the prospect of employment, assisting school leavers to enter the labour force and helping those returning to the labour force is *first* and *best* assisted by achieving year 12 or equivalent.

The proportion of the labour force by the highest level of education completed across the three regions is:

- employed full-time rises from only 10 per cent of those with year 8 or below to 42 per cent of those with year 12 or equivalent;
- employed part-time rises from only 9 per cent of those with year 8 or below to 22 per cent of those with year 12 or equivalent;
- conversely, those not in the labour force falls from 77 per cent of those with year 8 or below to 27 per cent of those with year 12 or equivalent; and
- unemployment declines with year 12 or equivalent relative to only years 9 and 10 schooling (see Figures 4.1 to 4.4 below).

Figure 4.1
Early School Leavers(a) by Labour Force Status
Proportion of Regional Total(b) by Highest Level of Education Completed(c) (per cent)
Statistical Government Region (SGR) – Eyre and Western, Far North, Yorke and Mid North

Employed and working full-time

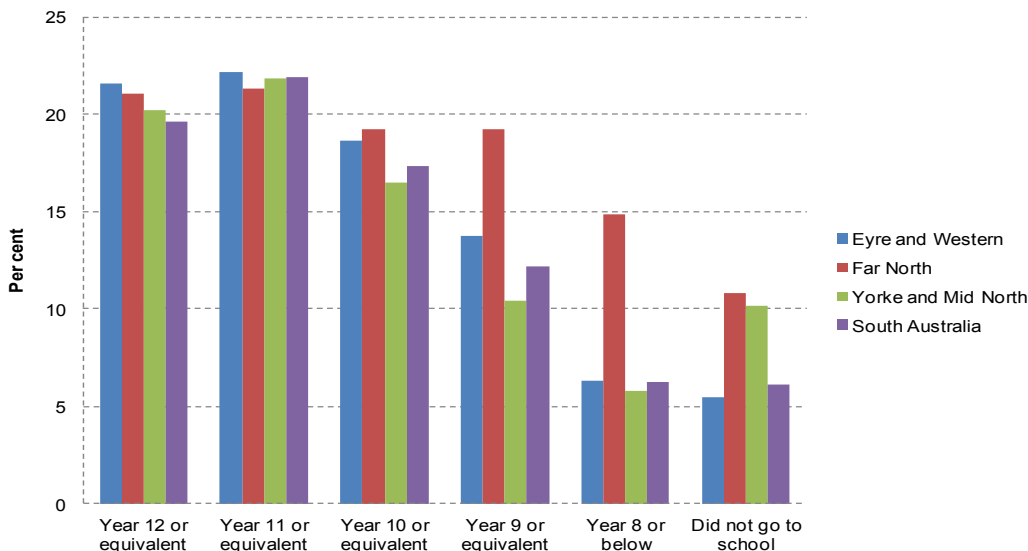


Note: (a) Highest level of education completed. Excluding those still in schools or in higher education.
 (b) Regional total includes 'Offshore Areas and Migratory' and 'No Usual Address'.
 (c) For example, 42 per cent of all Early School Leavers with 'year 11 or equivalent' in 'Eyre and Western' are employed and working full-time.

Source: ABS (2006), Census of Population and Housing, SACES calculations.

Figure 4.2
Early School Leavers(a) by Labour Force Status
Proportion of Regional Total(b) by Highest Level of Education Completed(c) (per cent)
Statistical Government Region (SGR) – Eyre and Western, Far North, Yorke and Mid North

Employed and working part-time

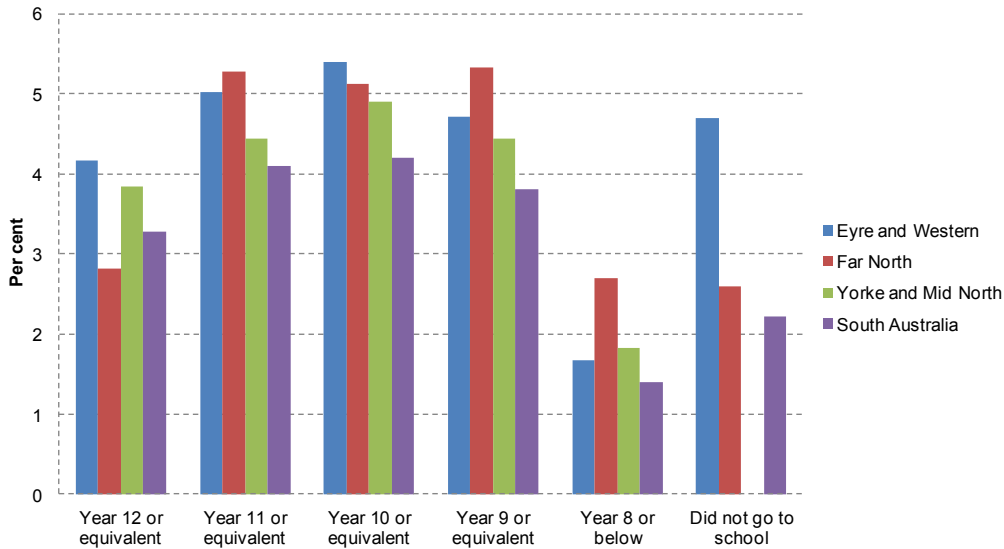


Note: (a) Highest level of education completed. Excluding those still in schools or in higher education.
 (b) Regional total includes 'Offshore Areas and Migratory' and 'No Usual Address'.
 (c) For example, 42 per cent of all Early School Leavers with 'year 11 or equivalent' in 'Eyre and Western' are employed and working full-time.

Source: ABS (2006), Census of Population and Housing, SACES calculations.

Figure 4.3
Early School Leavers(a) by Labour Force Status
Proportion of Regional Total(b) by Highest Level of Education Completed(c) (per cent)
Statistical Government Region (SGR) – Eyre and Western, Far North, Yorke and Mid North

Unemployed

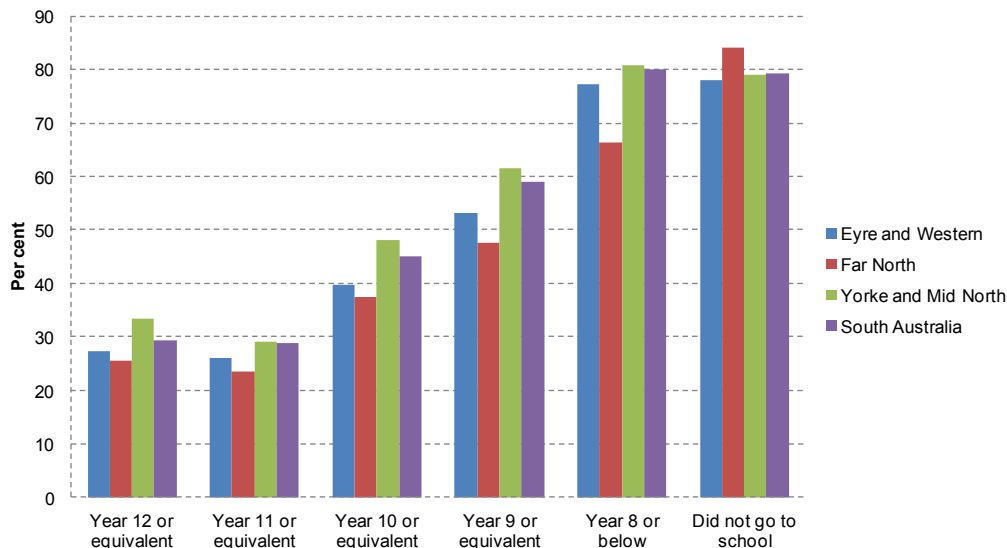


Note: (a) Highest level of education completed. Excluding those still in schools or in higher education.
 (b) Regional total includes 'Offshore Areas and Migratory' and 'No Usual Address'.
 (c) For example, 42 per cent of all Early School Leavers with 'year 11 or equivalent' in 'Eyre and Western' are employed and working full-time.

Source: ABS (2006), Census of Population and Housing, SACES calculations.

Figure 4.4
Early School Leavers(a) by Labour Force Status
Proportion of Regional Total(b) by Highest Level of Education Completed(c) (per cent)
Statistical Government Region (SGR) – Eyre and Western, Far North, Yorke and Mid North

Not in Labour Force



Note: (a) Highest level of education completed. Excluding those still in schools or in higher education.
 (b) Regional total includes 'Offshore Areas and Migratory' and 'No Usual Address'.
 (c) For example, 42 per cent of all Early School Leavers with 'year 11 or equivalent' in 'Eyre and Western' are employed and working full-time.

Source: ABS (2006), Census of Population and Housing, SACES calculations.

The USGCPG has a real opportunity, working closely with DECD, to create three World Class, 21st Century Education Precincts that integrate a range of services (e.g., health, ECD, family and childcare). The USGCPG has a clear leadership role in setting this vision, in building community acceptance and participation but it must first establish the mechanism or sub-committee to “do the ground work”.

Improving education facilities, educational outcomes, teaching performance, student achievement and parental involvement will

- act to reduce inequality and marginalisation;
- help to reduce unemployment;
- increase VET participation and qualifications,
- help to spread wealth, income and opportunity from mining and other industries in the region; and
- act as an incentive for attraction and retention of population and business investment.

The three cities need to embrace the reality of economic transformation and promote education as one of the key drivers of economic rejuvenation across the region. This is an imperative and it was present before the so called mining boom and will remain after the highs and lows of the mining boom. There are already individuals, groups and families who are marginalised from the labour market, who need to be re-engaged back into training and skills development, need further literacy and numeracy training and if this does not occur then those currently marginalised will be further marginalised.

On the common purpose ...

Respondents noted that the three cities are obviously different when measured by size, location, industrial history and with respect to the BHP-B expansion (and other mining ventures) each of the cities is presented with different opportunities. Whyalla is well placed to attract heavy engineering service industries due to its size and diverse skills base, Port Augusta will benefit from service industries, service contracts, rail and general freight and families/people choosing to reside in Port Augusta and travel to Olympic Dam while Port Pirie will likely attract population growth due to its lifestyle advantages, proximity to Adelaide, Yorke Peninsula and the winery districts of the Clare and Barossa Valley. All of the above is as it should be, building on the comparative advantage of each city.

Having said that, the three cities share a common economic and social history, people know each other, there are tangible connections between people and there are shared values and shared challenges. That is to say, there is a common history and a common purpose which is the rationale for the USGCPG.

Each of the respondents identified a desire to improve the wellbeing of the whole community, to increase total employment, to improve the situation of those who are currently unemployed, to diversify their local economy and support greater economic prosperity.

5. The General Question: Dealing with the Fundamentals

This Section we consider a logical approach to the task of thinking about an economic and strategic development program and use as an example the regional challenge of literacy and numeracy. We illustrate some of what Education Managers and schools are doing but a literacy and numeracy strategy must be a whole of community strategy, it must stretch back into families and early childhood development. It will involve teacher training and support (Productivity Commission); it will involve DECD drawing together health, welfare, families, childcare and ECD services into what schools provide (i.e., from 0-18 years); it will involve USGCPG understanding and working closely with the DECD agenda.

The Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group desires to achieve greater economic prosperity for individuals, families and communities within the region. It has a unique opportunity to capture and more strongly support economic activity across the region – not only through the expansion of the mining industry – but through supporting a diversified agricultural and horticultural sector, fishing industry, manufacturing value adding through the food value chain and increasing exports into existing and new markets.

To achieve the ultimate objective – which is greater prosperity for regional communities through economic growth – then it must achieve progress on the 3Ps:

- population growth as opportunities expand;
- participation in the workforce; and
- productivity (raise the skill levels).²⁵

A broad suite of policies under four key areas (as identified by the OECD)²⁶ need to be pursued:

- infrastructure investment (especially that which is combined with human capital formation and innovation);
- education/human capital as a key driver of growth;
- innovation in products, processes, systems; and
- integration of regional policies that are flexible, responsive to market signals/opportunities.

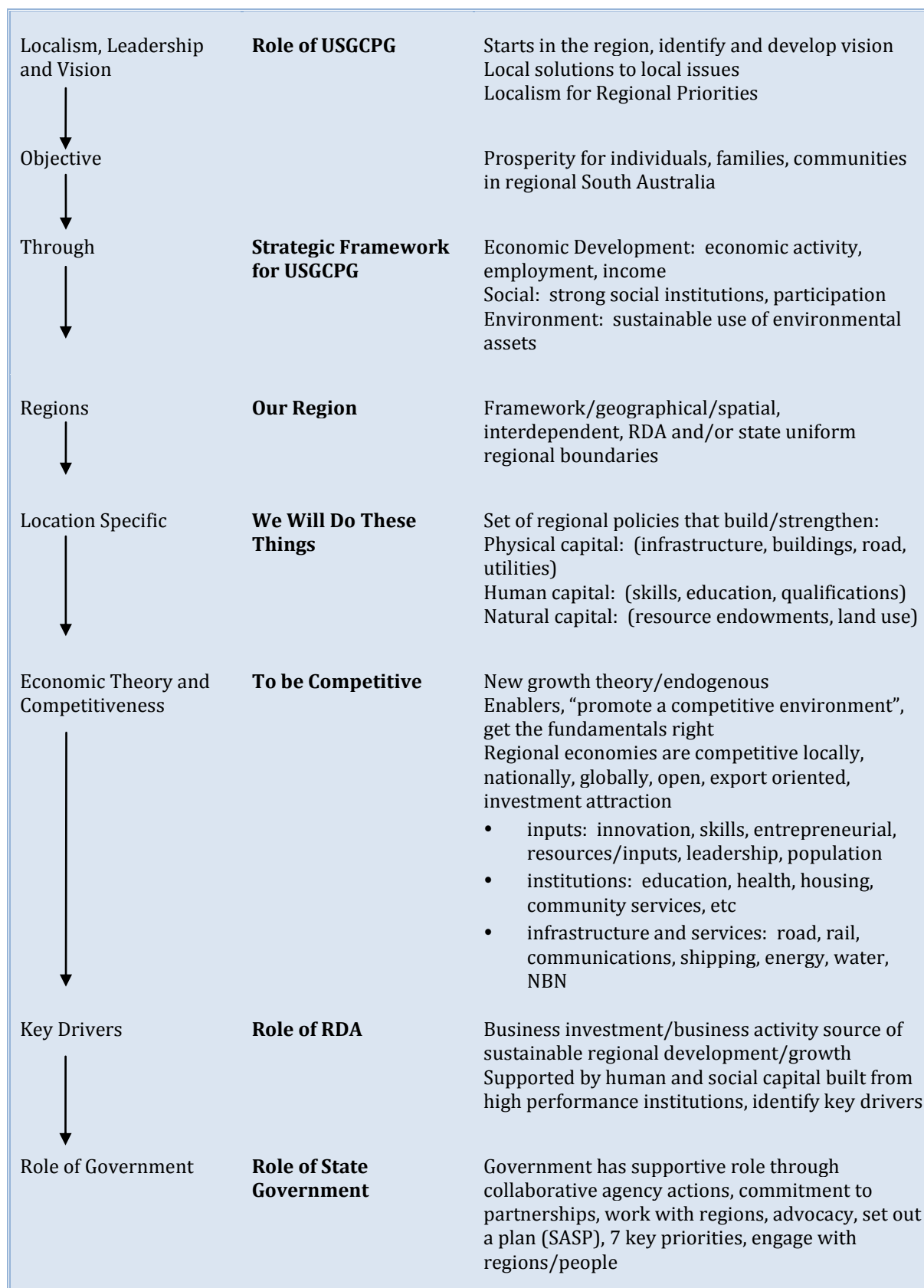
Box 5.1 sets out a schema to logically approach the task – first setting a vision and strategy for the region, then specific things ‘we will do to be competitive’, supported by the RDAs, the business community and wider community, including necessary actions by the State government to support the strategy.

In this section we use Port Augusta as an example, to consider the importance of working collaboratively with the community to improve literacy and numeracy, which is a fundamental pre-requisite for two of the “Ps” – workforce and civic participation and productivity.

²⁵ SACES (2009), “Strategic Review of South Australia Works”, Vol. 1, p. iv.

²⁶ OECD (2009).

Box 5.1 A Framework for Prosperity



Productivity Commission: Schools Workforce

The Productivity Commission recently released the results of its research into Schools Workforce in which it stressed the importance of school education with the transition to a more knowledge-based economy. The Commission acknowledged the “more ‘complex and demanding teaching environment’” it wrote extensively on the Empowering Local Schools Initiative and the need for programs, support and investment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the workforce, the need for professional development and innovation, leadership and autonomy at the local school level. The Commission also discussed specific targeted initiatives to assist disadvantaged students, parents and communities to address the underperformance of schools. The Commission’s review and report and recommendations sit within the broader COAG agenda to raise literacy and numeracy, to support improvements in teacher training and quality and boost national school performance.

The Commission said:

“Australia’s future depends on how well it develops the ‘human capital’ of its population. A well-performing schooling system is fundamental” (Overview, p. 2).

On the need for improvement:

“... there is evidence that student-literacy and numeracy have declined in recent years ... educational disadvantage is particularly evident in Australian students who are Indigenous, from low socio-economic backgrounds, have a disability or other special needs, or reside in a rural or remote area” (Overview, p. 3).

One initiative that the Commission touched upon – and this is relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf and the wider school community – was the “promising avenue of the development of university-school partnerships”, particularly in support of developing an effective teaching workforce.

The future investment of the University of Adelaide provides an opportunity for teacher professional development, for interventions and practices that target educational disadvantage and to link up early childhood education, primary schools (with the University of Adelaide Compass program), establish a “kids university and youth university” (online and physical presence) and secondary schools. This investment, coupled with other initiatives, is one component of the building bloc to progressively improve educational outcomes across the region.

Schooling, Literacy and Numeracy for All

A recent snapshot of progress in literacy and numeracy across 78 selected schools in South Australia showed early gains in literacy and numeracy at year 3 level with only minor gains through years 5-7.

COAG reform data shows South Australia to have gaps between 10 and 17 percentage points in Indigenous student attendance rates. In the period 2007 to 2009 in government schools the attendance rates actually dropped by 6 percentage points in South Australia. Overall, as in all states/territories, “attendance is relatively consistent across primary schools but declines through secondary school.”

The Challenge

In terms of literacy the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous achievement was around 20 percentage points in year 3, 26 percentage points in year 5, 27 percentage points in year 7 and 27 percentage points in year 9 (COAG 2009). In terms of numeracy, the percentage gap remained at 21 percentage points across all year levels.

There has been progress with an increasing proportion of Indigenous students achieving above the national minimum standard but overall the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous for South Australia has “never fallen below 17 percentage points”.

Engaging and retaining Indigenous youth and other students appears to require greater training and support for classroom teachers including much stronger relationships with parents, community members and other professionals (e.g., health, educator/trainers).

Remuneration-based incentives to attract highly qualified teachers are one further element of a broad based strategy to address schooling in disadvantaged communities.

There are examples of successful strategies to improve school attendance and raise academic performance.

The New South Wales government recently announced a “Connected Communities” policy that rewards some 15 principals as they endeavour to align health, community services, employment and training and schools to improve Indigenous education and address the performance of disadvantaged communities.

School-community relationships appear from the literature to be vitally important (see Box 5.2: Recently funded National Partnership Initiative). Strategies such as that Mimili Anangu School (based on reward for attendance: access to swimming pool) are a potentially useful adjunct which saw attendance rates increase from 69 per cent in 2002 to 85 per cent in 2007. Teacher development strategies are the key underpinning to attendance, teaching and learning.

The Australian newspaper recently reported on the Cairns West State School’s Academic Success Guarantee introduced in 2009 that is based on a signed contract between parents and the school:

“The parents promise to send their children to school at least 95 per cent of the time and the school guarantees the children will meet or beat their year level minimum academic benchmarks. Extra learning support is provided for students who struggle.

Since the program was introduced, attendance has risen from 82 per cent to 87 per cent and 57 per cent of children are meeting their academic benchmarks, compared with 32 per cent in 2008. The numbers of students suspended has significantly declined.”²⁷

Targeted initiatives including to raise, monitor and report performance to achieve academic benchmarks are being implemented across the region, but they need to be promoted within and across the whole community.

²⁷

The Australian (26 June 2012), “With Parents Involved Success is Guaranteed”, p. 7.

Box 5.2**Empowering Local Schools (ELS) National Partnership Initiative**

The Port Augusta Empowering Local Schools Confederation proposal will focus on local decision making through the development of school governance/partnerships, higher expectations of students, teachers and parents and a stronger commitment to public schooling through a Whole of Town Approach. A number of key factors have been considered as part of this proposal including the Port Augusta Urban Regional Strategy, a common set of recommendations from SSI Reviews and the increased Aboriginalisation of Port Augusta Secondary School PASS. The proposal will cover all sites across Port Augusta including the 6 preschools, 7 Primary and Secondary School and implement a range of strategies to build the Governance arrangements .

The objectives of the initiative are:

- (i) Development of a Whole Town Approach through empowerment of the Confederation of Governing Councils and the positioning of public education as the preferred education provider.
- (ii) to equip and empower educators to develop young peoples' executive functions/higher expectations and self-concept as a learner.
- (iii) establish partnership agreements with business and the Aboriginal community for a mandate for action
- (iv) to determine to what extent the executive function changes improve NAPLAN results.

It is recognised that the gap between Port Augusta student achievement results and the DECD system achievement results in education is large. The 'whole of town' approach will ensure that Port Augusta students have adequate knowledge and skills in areas such as English literacy and numeracy. It is also acknowledged that many students do not attend school regularly and most leave school early and few achieve a SACE. The project will be the 'change breaker' which will support a shift in student and parent mindset and a greater valuing of the power of public education.

Low levels of education have previously meant that people from low SES communities such as Port Augusta have reduced opportunities for participating in training and employment. A key outcome of this initiative will ensure students who leave school have a different mindset and ability to seek out opportunities and make the most of the increased choice.

For many Port Augusta families school education is not a valued aspect of community life and going to school is not routine. A key objective of this 'whole of town' initiative will be to reduce the existing gap between community obligations, aspirations and/or lifestyle to ensure that education is not seen as a transplanted institution with its sometimes alien operating structures and rules. To improve all government service delivery the Port Augusta Urban Regional Strategy (State, Australian & Local Government Partnership and Engagement initiative) was established in 2011. All three tiers of Government have committed to work together with the Port Augusta Community to ensure that the Urban and Regional Strategy makes a difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. A local Aboriginal Community Engagement Group was formed following community forums and meetings, these people were nominated to represent the broader Aboriginal Community. This group are Key Stakeholders in the Initiative and are at the forefront of ensuring that the Initiative is driven by Aboriginal People who live in Port Augusta and Davenport Community. The Confederation will link in with this strategy to ensure there is alignment of effort and transformational change.

Ultimately, the test of success of this Confederation initiative will be in the improvements in students' performance in the nationally administered NAPLAN tests. In addition student responses to selected items from previous National Assessment Program (NAPLAN and NAPSL) tests will also be collected before and after the project. Teachers will use similar items throughout the project to illustrate some of the learning within the workshop.

Returning to the key question: how well is the Upper Spencer Gulf positioned to take advantage of new employment opportunities, how well are education providers resourced to meet the challenge (i.e., what is the current throughput), what is required to maximise current opportunities for young people in the school to work transition phase of their life?

Table 5.1 compares the average of NAPLAN results for the three RDA regions relative to South Australia (set to 100) to show the general improvement from year 3 through to year 7 but still below the State average. This should be taken as a rough guide to the challenge, that over time the target will be to better the State average.

Table 5.1
Average NAPLAN results for the three RDAs relative to South Australia

	Yorke and Mid North	Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula	Far North ¹	South Australia ²
Year 3				
Reading	87.6	85.0	81.1	100
Spelling	88.6	86.0	79.4	100
Numeracy	89.7	91.3	84.5	100
Year 5				
Reading	88.7	91.8	82.0	100
Spelling	90.8	92.6	87.1	100
Numeracy	91.9	95.2	86.0	100
Year 7				
Reading	94.0	95.5	88.6	100
Spelling	94.1	95.1	87.2	100
Numeracy	93.8	95.5	87.0	100

Note: ¹ Average of 7 primary schools for Far North, average of 8 for other two RDAs.

² State average set to 100.

Source: NAPLAN results, SACES calculations.

In a recent newspaper article it was reported that “more than 20,000 South Australian public school students are skipping two or more weeks of each school term”²⁸ as revealed by Education Department absence data that recorded “unauthorised absent data”. The average public high school student was absent from school without permission for almost three days each term. Schools with students who were absent for more than 10 days unauthorised included four in the Upper Spencer Gulf region, as per Table 5.2. DECD in their recent publication on integrated services²⁹ reported trialling new initiatives to reduce absence rates for all children, but especially Aboriginal children, because the school absence rate was 21.5 per cent or equivalent to nearly one whole term. Absentee rates are a “whole of community” responsibility and improvement can be monitored and reported to encourage still further gains.

²⁸ “Students Wag for Weeks”, page 11 Sheradyn Holderhead, Education Editor, *The Advertiser*, Adelaide.

²⁹ Newsletter: 2 June 2012 Integrated Services Improved Outcomes.

On the same day *The Australian* newspaper carried an article by The Hon Craig Emerson, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness title “Education reform can lead us through two doors” on which he stated, specifically in regard to the public school system:

“Lots of government schools in disadvantaged communities have become residualised, catering for almost all the poorly performing student, including those from low socio-economic, non-English speaking families and indigenous families, and children, with disabilities. Feeding on itself, this insidious process of residualisation has caused “white flight” from suburban schools, leaving high concentrations of students from disadvantaged ethnic communities in many state schools.”³⁰

Table 5.2
Unauthorised non-attendance: ranking

School	Rated	Student number	Unauthorised absent 10+ days per term
Port Augusta Secondary	2	524.6	309
John Pirie Secondary	5	628.9	266
Edward John Eyre High	7	758.6	286
Stuart High	9	339	187

Source: DECD, reported in *The Advertiser*.

The Minister also noted that “money without reform will not work, while reform will not work without money”. Minister Emerson referred to a series of reforms including the national curriculum and the Gonski Review that has recommended that students with the greatest need would attract more funding. Notwithstanding decisions on the Gonski Review, it is stating the obvious in noting that students who do not attend school will not receive the benefit of additional per student funding.

The Literacy and Numeracy Challenge Port Augusta Secondary School (PASS)

In 2010 PASS trialled an intervention in Literacy. The purpose was to identify students in year 8 whose literacy levels were severely below the level of their peers and to develop programs that would make a difference. Part of the process included using ACER tests to determine the current levels of literacy with the goal of re-testing at the end of the year. The students who started ranged from levels as low as reception and as high as grade 3. The testing at the end of the year did note improvements in the majority of students some jumping as high as 2 grades. The testing has continued in 2011 with a new group of year 8s and a select number of year 9s who were identified as still needing the support.

In 2011 literacy testing was introduced for all year 8 students using the ACER literacy tests. The goal was to determine the literacy levels of new students and use this to effectively develop teaching and intervention programs to enable students to achieve at a higher level. The data was collected during week one of term one in 2011. Analysis of the data was used to determine literacy levels of the new cohort of year 8 students and to enable identification of specific teaching goals. The data was made available to allow staff to use the data to inform their teaching practice and to adapt their curriculum for differentiation. Students have since been re tested at the beginning of term 3 allowing

³⁰ “Education reform can lead us through two doors”, the Hon Craig Emerson, *The Australian*, p. 11 (undated).

for measurement of progress in this area and analysis of the effectiveness of current teaching methodology. This data is also available to staff to enable them to determine current literacy levels of their students and if improvement has been noted. The current plan is to test the new cohort of year 8 students in 2012 and to re test the year 9 students. This is to enable tracking of student literacy levels as they progress through the school.

The other form of data currently being collected with regard to literacy is ESL Scopes and Scales. There are 133 ESL students attending PASS in 2011 and this adds to the complexity of the Literacy needs and teaching across curriculum areas. Each year data is updated on all ESL students and data is presented to staff to enable an understanding of the complexity of literacy within the school and to assist in developing strategies to enable differentiated planning. The data demonstrated the wide range of levels of student understanding and skills in Standard Australian English. The goal is to use the ESL Scopes and Scales to add another dimension to testing all students.

Concerns re the data collection include issues of student absenteeism, the need to identify a comparative test that will enable cross referencing and over simplification of data interpretation. Data collected would include staff perception of the preferred classroom compared to actual classroom and student perception of the preferred and actual classroom. Classroom environment is recognised worldwide as having a major impact on student learning and educational outcomes.

Figure 5.1 represents the data collected thus far by PASS with regard to Literacy in 2011 and shows the diversity of literacy in the Year 8 students at the beginning of 2011. Approximately 70 per cent of the students tested were below the age appropriate level for the start of year 8. To be considered at the age appropriate level students needed to achieve a minimum of Stanine 5. The test used determined if the students starting at year 8 were currently at a year 7 levels. As can be seen by the graph the majority of students at the start of year 8 in 2011 were at year 3 literacy levels.

Figure 5.2 shows the results when students were re-tested at the beginning of Term 3 2011. The data reflects a lower number of students participating in the test for various reasons including absenteeism.

Figure 5.3 shows the results for spelling where Stanine 5 is the year level appropriate. The ACER data collected in 2011 highlights the complexity of literacy at PASS. A teacher in year 8 may have students ranging from year 1 to 8 in the same classroom.

PASS has also reviewed the mathematics curriculum and student performance after Maths testing found 85 per cent of year 8, 9 and 10 were up to three years behind the appropriate age level. The school is making progress and helping students to catch-up but the data clearly indicates that “students are arriving at school with a very low baseline numeracy level”. So the problem, the challenge, is to reach back into the family unit, into the community to build a higher baseline.

The school has then followed school based testing with TAFE based testing and found very low numeracy skill levels. PASS has noted “with large changes in technology and increase in knowledge-based jobs, workers are having to keep pace with these changes but do not have the language, literacy and numeracy skills to do so.”³¹

They further note that “the consequences of this for the futures of students is that low numeracy levels will have a direct impact on their ability to enter the workforce. Many low numeracy students go on to be long term unemployed, or unable to successfully engage with workplace training through VET and other institutions.”³²

Figure 5.1
Comprehension

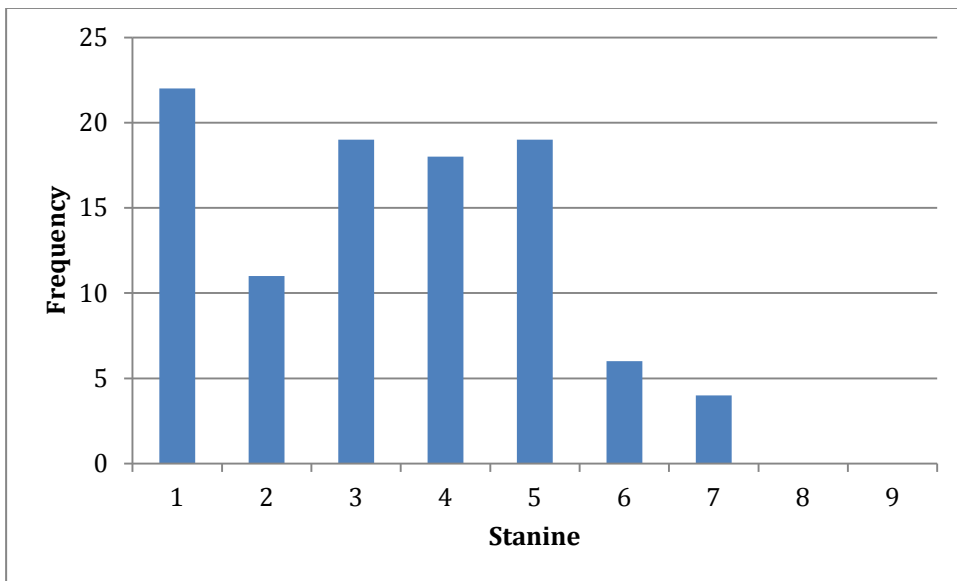
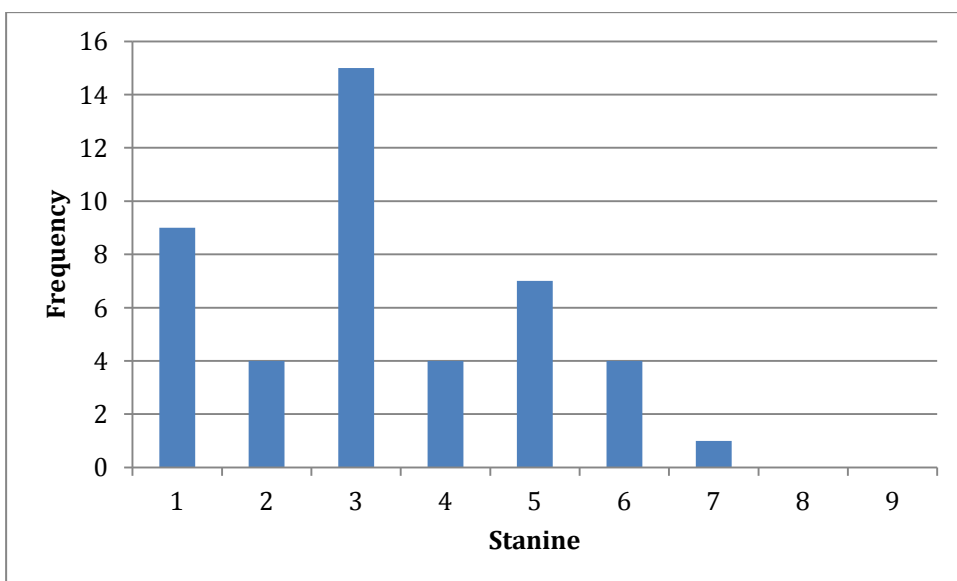
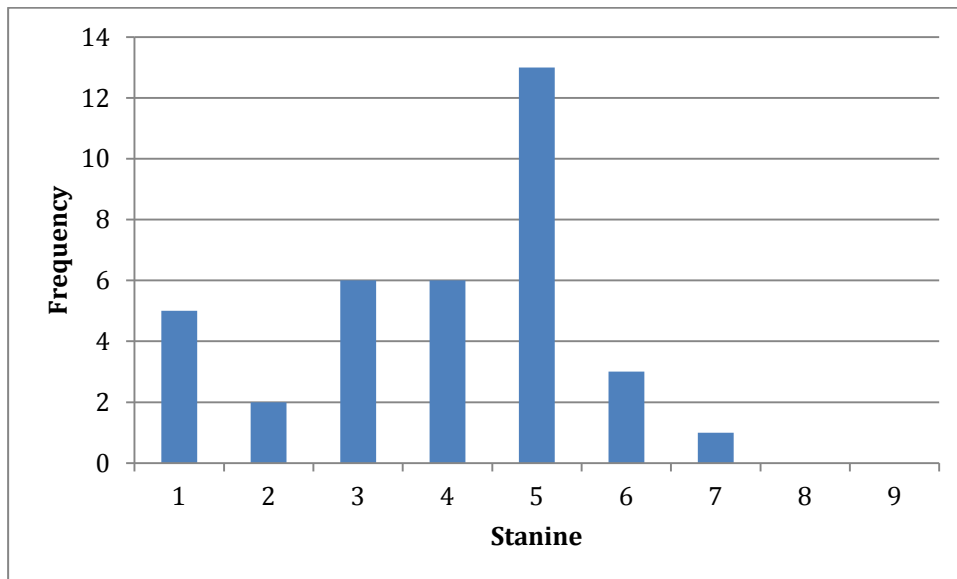


Figure 5.2
Comprehension: Re-Tested



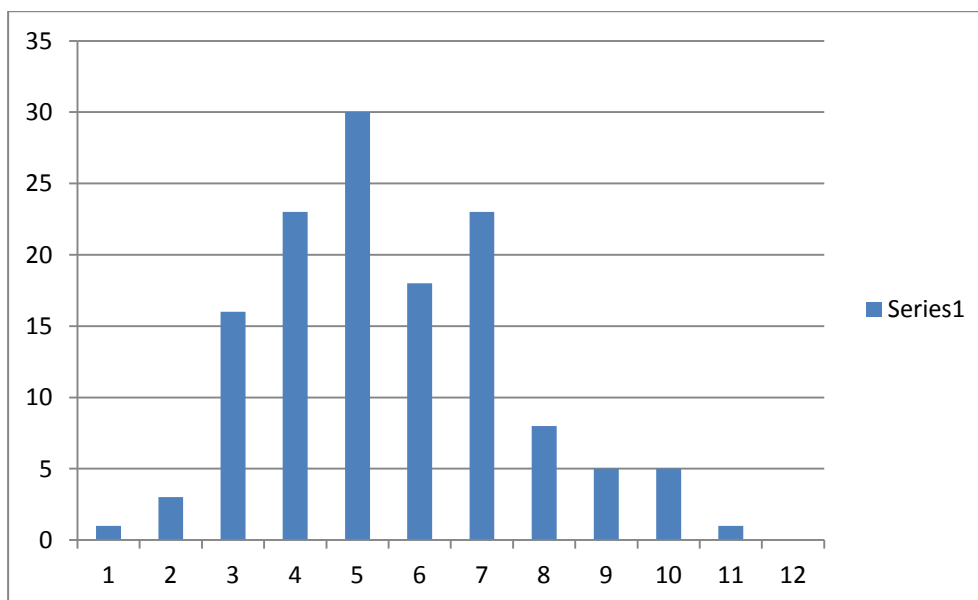
³¹ Mathematics Curriculum Area Data Analysis, PASS, June 2011.
³² *Op. cit.*

Figure 5.3
Spelling



In 2011, PASS as part of DECS requirements, re-tested all ESL students and the data collected is shown in Figure 5.4. PASS currently has 133 identified ESL students. For students to be considered no longer in need of ESL support they are required to reach scale 13. As can be seen from the graph of students' scales for term 3 2011, PASS has a significantly large number of students requiring extra literacy support.

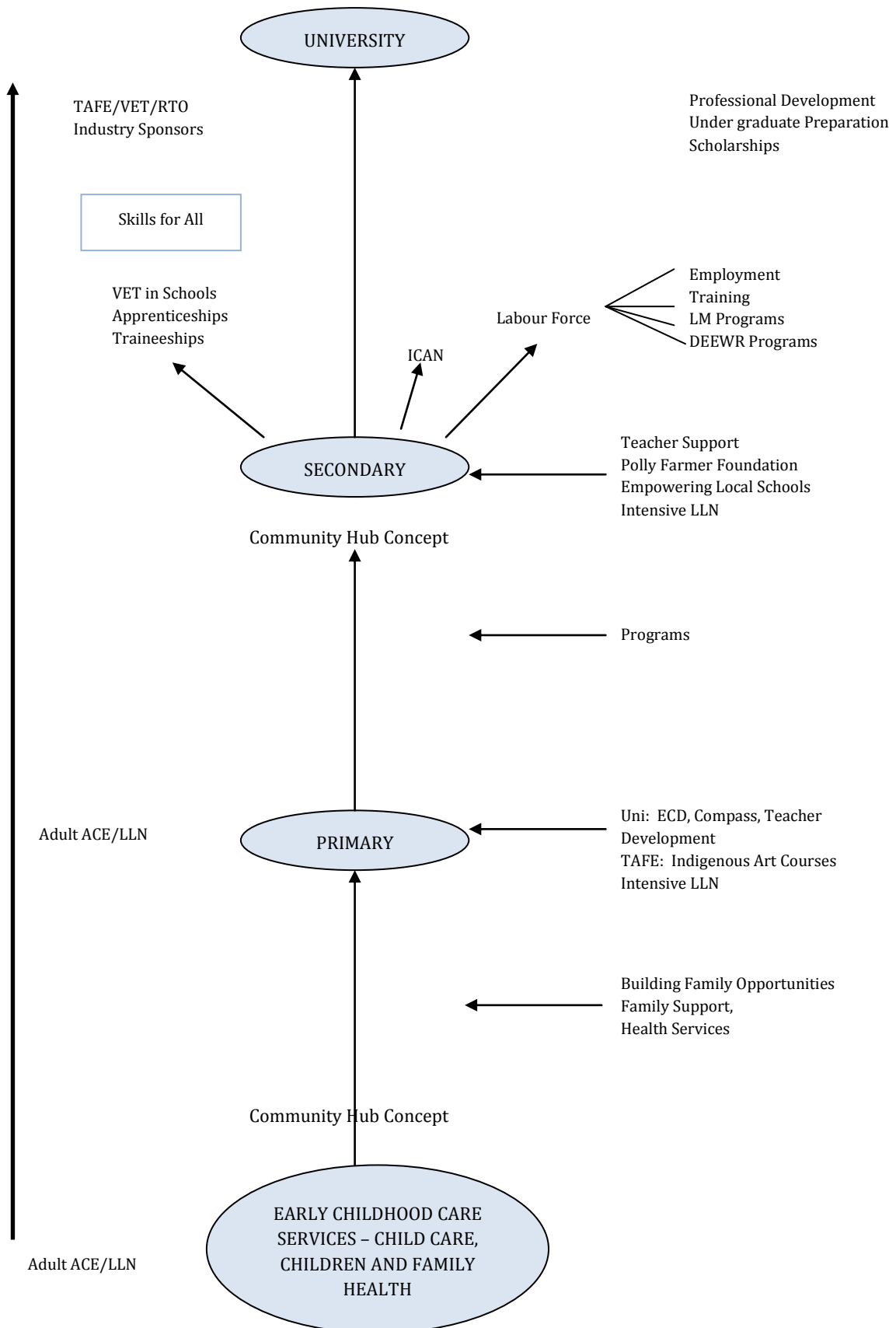
Figure 5.4
Literacy Support: Re-tested



In summary, it is a necessary and legitimate role for the USGCPG to be informed and an active participant in addressing the literacy and numeracy challenge. Helping to promote the importance of early childhood development, access to ECD services, the participation of adults in community learning, attendance at school are fundamental to the development of social capital that is the bridge to human capital and then two of the "P's" – workforce participation and productivity. It is also about social inclusion.

Box 5.3 is a partial summary of the new policy direction that is seeking to integrate services to children, youth and families from 0 to 18 years. Port Augusta is progressing this new direction through the concept of “community hubs”. Universities can play a role in teacher development and support; adult literacy and numeracy can extend right through the linked system.

Box 5.3
Linked System: Early Childhood Development to University/VET



6. The Three Cities

There is a recognition that education and social infrastructure is “old and tired”. Whatever the ultimate planning decisions, there is a clear need to invest in education facilities, in teacher training and in better service delivery for early childhood.

TAFE SA quality and course options are well supported but there was a clear call for TAFE SA to become much more innovative and entrepreneurial as it has a vital role in education in regional communities.

While many reports deal with the situation of Aboriginal families and youth, most respondents argued the need to raise the average for all at school and the community.

Universities, TAFE, School Principals and Councils have the combined capacity to provide leadership, encouragement and support for education and the acquisition of skills for life and work. USGCPG needs to harness this capacity.

The researchers conducted a number of interviews with a wide range of community leaders with schools and service providers, Indigenous persons not for profit, TAFE and members of the business community. We sought to gauge a range of views about key issues for their respective sectors, for the USGCPG and the region and to assess what they considered are key challenges for the region.

Port Pirie

John Pirie Secondary School and St Marks College

The John Pirie Secondary School is favourably located to other education facilities such as the Trade Training Centre (including the schools own facilities) and the Port Pirie TAFE. It is then centrally located to two ovals, the swimming pool and the Port Pirie Community Centre. The geographical positioning of all these facilities offers the opportunity for a world class education precinct, with Council assistance to design school entry/exit points and traffic re-design.

It is worth stressing – the cluster of education and training facilities and sporting facilities could provide Port Pirie with a world class education precinct which is a consideration when families are choosing to locate and hence achieve population growth.

John Pirie has approximately 700 year 8-12 students, 657 of whom are fully enrolled and 50 participating in flexible learning options. Approximately 140 students are enrolled in multi-trade industry pathways programs and certificate courses, including, *inter alia*,

- engineering, electrical engineering;
- motor trades;
- building and construction;
- allied health; and
- hospitality (Certificate II and Certificate III).

Students are all participating in semester courses run through TAFE.

The school also provides a University Pathway Program with University of South Australia which has a strong focus on mathematics and science.

Three broad themes emerged from discussions with a number of education providers as to what would be desirable outcomes for Port Pirie:

- integrating an adult learning centre in future development;
- further consideration to the amalgamation of primary schools including the further development of the “old” Australian Training College; and
- further training courses that seamlessly link to TAFE following the introduction of Skills for All.

Saint Marks (Catholic College) links into VET funding and courses in TAFE and co-ordinates with John Pirie Secondary School with School Based Apprenticeships and Certificate Courses, plus the school hosts its own programs in design, hospitality, music and agriculture. The demise of the Australian Training College impacted on students undertaking an apprenticeship because they had individual contracts with an employer and while some maintained the relationship others did not.

TAFE Regional: Port Pirie

Port Pirie Regional TAFE offers up to 15 VET study (Table 6.2) areas several of which could lead to employment across the minerals and resources sector. The Institute appreciates it will need to become more entrepreneurial following the start-up of Skills for All, in part because the previous impediment of “who pays” has been removed, the growing link between schools and VET courses and the admission that the Institute is not reaching all people it could and must find ways to expand the demand. TAFE Regional will need to market itself as it cannot sit and wait for “people to walk through the door”. In fact, TAFE staff noted that they believe there is unmet demand in the community for literacy and numeracy courses, computer literacy and management courses and that they are not currently reaching all the people they could.

A concern was voiced in regard to School Based Apprenticeships in that there was a need to connect to an employer as the statistics show that the program was not successful at the time of leaving school to link to employers and at this point the industry-school link/relationship ceased. The destination of students undertaking the School Based Apprenticeship needs further research to provide the evidence for development of the program.

The links between TAFE and John Pirie High School are substantial and this is one reason why VET participation in the region is higher than the State average (per 1,000 persons). This relationship can be strengthened with changes to SACE and Skills for All as demand is there for courses at Certificate I and II level.

What emerged again from discussion with the TAFE leadership group is the significant problem with literacy and numeracy and ways to address this problem. There is a greater onus on Centrelink and Job Service Australia providers to refer/provide clients to literacy and numeracy training and to demonstrate that this basic foundational set of skills has been addressed. TAFE does provide literacy and numeracy instruction and indicated it can expand this offering both on and off regional campuses.

In summary, the market for TAFE courses will become more competitive and it will need to more aggressively market itself, including that it has underutilised capacity. TAFE Regional can provide real leadership to the community in expanding the use of its facilities and it can look to provide adult education courses that have both social and economic objective. It can identify with the community and is embedded within local communities and these are real strengths that need to be developed.

It is important that educational leadership is seen to come from TAFE Regional because it helps to set the foundations for learning, “social courses” and second chance entry into vocational education and skills. There is a real challenge here for TAFE Regional where the more competitive environment will reward those who exercise leadership, entrepreneurial flair and tap into unmet demand across the community. As well as visible leadership, TAFE will need to demonstrate to employers and students that it provides real skills and successful outcomes (therefore, involve more employers) relative to other RTO providers.

Uniting Care Wesley (UCW)

The number of jobless families in Port Pirie is significant enough to justify the Building Families Opportunity initiative (a variant of which has received funding from DEEWR). As an organisation that deals with many families they are well placed to see the deadening impact of joblessness on families and youth, that “young people don’t see and experience success in life”, that it is difficult for families to be supportive when they are under financial pressure. The cycle of exclusion is easily transferable without interventions, specifically in early childhood development and up to year 3 in school. Many families require intensive case management in order to develop a plan or strategy and implement it over time to ensure the family “gets what it needs”.

There are examples of programs essentially working against each other – notably in employment preparation area – and usually focused on one issue rather than the complex life situation of an individual or family. UCW considered for example the lack of child care places that impacted on a mothers availability to participate in work skill courses, restricting opportunities for work experience.

Too many programs are short-term, the funding is taken away or replaced by another program without any assessment of effectiveness or evidence to support the change (the ATC was again cited).

It is reasonable to ask whether Port Pirie has been able to successfully address social exclusion over the last ten years and whether the situation is better today than it was ten years ago.

In our view there needs to be far greater innovation in the way NFP agencies are funded to support intensive case management programs and integrate delivery of services. Port Pirie is a relatively close knit community with a high rate of volunteerism.

Primary Schools Perspective

While teaching may be the “profession that makes all other professions possible” regional principals pointed to the difficulty of recruiting and retaining quality teachers and that there are teachers who should not be teaching and/or are in need of significant professional development. There appears to be a significant and shared sentiment that professional development of teachers in the public sector is seriously lacking and an independent study by the Productivity Commission (2012)³³ reached a similar conclusion.

Primary schools in the region have significant numbers of children from jobless families, up to 70 per cent of enrolments on the school card and an estimate that 70 per cent of students are below the appropriate reading age.

Individual schools across the three cities also speak to the rushed and ultimately unsuccessful consultations with DECD regarding economic stimulus funding, proposed school mergers and amalgamations and development of schools in the region that resulted in essentially the status quo. Notwithstanding the result of the 2009 debate/consultations, the three cities need to revisit the performance of schools, the ageing infrastructure and consider C21st developments to build world class education precincts with high performance schools and teachers. Respondents indicated support for recent DECD directions, the Gonski Review and supported a radical overhaul of the education sector to improve outcomes for all and to address the disadvantages for many from low socioeconomic areas.

Underlying the concerns of principals and many teachers is an acceptance of passivity/mediocrity and “too many excuses” across the whole system. These are silent, rarely voiced concerns, equally programs, initiatives and funding are stop-start, including waste of funding so that core needs such as literacy and numeracy and addressing the consequences of families living in low socioeconomic areas are not systematically addressed.

Overall the community is reactive – the region and city lacks a vision, leadership and drive; it is buffeted by “a good new story in the local paper” and then quickly deflated when the good news does not eventuate.

To shift from reactive and passive to proactive and passionate requires a long-term strategy of development of people and hence community requiring the consistent application of effort, funding and programs to maximise the impact. Measures of achievement and success need to be reported and celebrated.

Labour Market Providers: Port Pirie

Here is the scenario:

“Left school at year 9 or year 10, no consistent role model in the family or in relation to work, family has low aspirations and I have followed that pathway. Early school leaving with literacy and numeracy issues and obviously will miss out on further benefits of schooling and money that would have been allocated to my school attendance. Family consists of single mum, mates were expelled, I just left, with no real foundation skills. Have lost a sense of future pathway (if I ever

³³ Productivity Commission (2012) *Schools Workforce Study*, May 2012.

had one), registered with JSA but my case manager has another 40-50 people on her books and never refers me to a job.

Heard about Skills for All but don't like TAFE, classrooms, don't really like study but good with my hands."

The reality is that the school experience, the family experience, the Centrelink experience and the JSA experience – happily having avoided correctional services – doesn't equip the individual to easily re-engage in vocational education yet not to invest in himself/herself will only compound the situation.

The "case study" highlights the need for an established fourth sector of education comprising, ACE, SA Works programs and providers such as BoysTown in Port Pirie. There needs to be new models of engagement that provide personal support, with basic foundation skills, leading then into training linked to work or work experience and then further training linked to jobs. Designing such programs should be the responsibility of central planners in cooperation with local providers and they should involve intensive case management. Social enterprise models where real work is part of engagement are also successful in employment outcomes.

While it may be preferable that the person described in the scenario to have remained at school the reality is many in similar situations do not. So labour market programs may have 15-20 youths in a single program, the program received limited funding but the State would have spent (based on an estimate of \$8K per capita) \$240,000 to \$320,000 on this group if they remained at school (if not more).

Labour market programs need to be provided with "more grunt" – serious involvement, serious training that will lead to a job, skills and personal development. The mining industry and more general demand for skilled labour provides a focus to re-think our approach to labour market programs, their design, value and importance in regard to economic and social inclusion.

Whyalla

Edward John Eyre Senior High School

School Structure and Student Population

Edward John Eyre (EJE) is a senior campus of Years 11-12 serviced by two junior secondary schools, Whyalla and Stuart High Schools. It has been appreciated for some time that the split school system is neither efficient nor productive in achieving better school performance outcomes for students in Whyalla.

It is generally perceived that the split campus is very detrimental to student outcomes, particularly given the nature of the student population.

A site is earmarked for a full secondary school but the State government will only reconsider proceeding when there is adequate community support for the merger. An R-12 super school was proposed in 2008 but did not proceed due to community opposition. There is scope to upgrade the existing EJE site to cover years 8-12. Principals from the three secondary sites and the Regional Director are committed to an Alliance, meeting regularly and are moving towards shared language, various

agreements e.g., some exchange of students for certain activities, with short and medium term goals which will help facilitate a future merger.

Student Population and Outcomes

The student population is similar to PASS but with a lower percentage of Aboriginal students and a special emphasis on young mothers. EJE has 430 students enrolled (as at Feb 2012). Aboriginal students transition to senior high school with entrenched difficulties.

There are approximately 100 flexible learning option (FLO) assessed students (including 15 young mothers). Approximately 20 per cent of the FLO students are totally supported off site. Level 1 and 2 FLO students are in a separate area of the school and have access to social workers at school. Young mothers attend a separate program 3 days per week, with the ultimate aim of achieving for SACE over several years. FLO Case management is done by Centrecare and Mission Australia (and possibly at Plaza Youth Centre if facilities can be improved). The Principal has some concerns about the quality of support in off-site provision. *EJE could have more students* that meet the FLO assessment but they can't cope with any more than they have already given limited financial resources and in terms of other resources (e.g., management, staff community impact). The school also runs a largely off-site FLO program in a TAFE shed with a boilermaker/social worker.

It is estimated that 70 per cent of current year 12 students were 2 years below standard in language, literacy and numeracy in year 9. There are good signs that NAPLAN testing is showing some improvement in primary school performance. Stuart High School is now working intensively on improving LLN skills. This is where the fragmented school structure in the city is very unhelpful as the problems just move from one institution to the next and EJE is at the end of the line.

Outcomes Data

Generally difficult to get accurate post school outcomes data but they do know that there are low rates of SACE and ATAR achievement when compared to similar schools. In 2011 of 100 year 12's, 54 finished SACE with 34 achieving an ATAR with an average of 54 (should be 63 SACE with ATAR average of 70). Some 19 students received their first choice at university and 19 A grades were achieved between 4 students. It is estimated that 65 could have completed SACE but 32 dropped out or lost interest.

VET and University of SA

While the history of the ATC is not repeated here the offer, establishment and closure of the ATC is an example of duplication of facilities, funding and effort that ultimately disadvantaged young people. The stop-start policy and funding is an example of poor public policy with the impact mostly felt by service providers and the trainees.

EJE has a Trade Training School facility with \$1.5m spent on metal work sheet metal fabrication and woodwork. There are two Industry pathway programs running with 23 in the Engineering Stream and 25 in a successful Community Services Stream. The relationship with TAFE is described as good but there is some difference of opinion amongst the players on issues like safety and quality of programs, work experience. An

Engineering Pathways Steering Committee formed in November 2011 with One Steel, BHP, TAFE, EJE, School based Apprenticeship staff and mentors.

The EJE/Uni SA relationship is strengthening by the linking of university staff to academic students for mentoring in electronics and robotics.

Overview Comments

The leadership group see VET as the future in an integrated senior and junior secondary school. However they all believed that the level of disadvantage and difficulty is beyond the capacity of even a new integrated secondary school so that projects such as Building Family Opportunities and Communities for Children and Jobless Families are required in Whyalla. Real frustration was expressed that Port Augusta has both of the first two schemes in operation but not Whyalla. (Whyalla now has a DEEWR funded pilot program.) High mining income families are using the private system which is further polarising the cultural distinctions in the city and amplifying the disadvantage and disengagement of some groups. They also considered that Council needed to devote greater effort to building an integrated cultural identity for the whole city. They see Port Augusta as proactive whilst Whyalla languishes.

Regional Indigenous Academic Adviser

Role with Tertiary Students

The Academic Adviser covers the recruitment of tutors and students for all University of SA courses, travelling across South Australia plus Western Victoria and New South Wales and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. A new position will soon cover Southern South Australia plus Victoria. He sees his role as lifting aspirations through many speaking engagements as well as supporting some remote students studying in Adelaide at Magill.

Currently two students are doing Engineering at Mawson Lakes and one doing Civil Aviation. There are 10 students on the UniSA Whyalla site doing Nursing and Social Work and three doing Foundation Courses. Difficulties for students from Port Augusta with accessing transport to, and accommodation in, Whyalla. Transition from Foundation Course to full courses was considered difficult as it is lecturer based and doesn't offer tutorial assistance. High achieving students are attracted to TAFE as mining can offer high financial returns relatively quickly. Inability to study at home is often a significant problem for able students as there is no space, usually two families per house in regional cities and a worse situation in communities.

Educational Concerns for Aboriginal Young People

As a frequent visitor to schools he sees poor behaviour and unmanaged health concerns despite the existence of Aboriginal Education Workers in schools who are supposed to pick up on hearing loss, health concerns, etc. Low education of parents is a significant problem along with retention and participation. It was claimed that high absentee and truancy rates are not being sufficiently addressed that then further reduces the value of participation in education.

Concern that *TAFE Certificate I or II are very low level* and talk of mines work is very unrealistic for many on the basis of their limited education and training. Informal research has found that students in these Certificates are only operating at a year 7 level

academically so that perhaps some were pushed to do these courses as a means of staying out of trouble rather than development of real capacity.

Wider concerns re Aboriginal capacity with particular insights into Pt. Augusta

Overall very strong agreement with the Owens and Dialogue reports and concerns regarding unsustainable outcomes (as in Port Lincoln), of aboriginal training programs. Retention of Aboriginal workers remains a difficulty e.g., common that a woman can't maintain a position and progress, say from ASO1 or 2 levels as she looks neat and presentable which attracts resentment from male partners so it is easier to leave work than risk violence. This suggests a need to work with the man when a woman gains employment.

Professionals' standards are not demanded so some communities do not get adequate health care or access to housing. Tendency for workers employed in government services to only effectively service members of their own community *or* for others to avoid a service because of the worker, *or* for some to avoid dealing with any blacks *or* for some to use cultural appropriateness issues to limit service. Closing the Gap is therefore not as successful because of these entrenched behaviours and this has had serious health and mental health outcomes for some poorly serviced families as a result.

Strong support for the initiatives of the Polly Farmer Foundation for developing potential in Aboriginal young people and for the Men in Black Group in Port Augusta which seeks to link Aboriginal men into services and programs by running two day bush camps. These types of programs need support as they are run by the community for the community.

Suggestions for USGCPG and Port Augusta

Need for powerful interagency group and forums in Port Augusta extending across the region seeking accountability and transparency in programs, services and funding to Aboriginal people to tackle concerns raised above. Leadership is needed by Councils and the USGCPG, including serious Aboriginal participation at executive levels. Concern that the Port Augusta Council's Aboriginal Engagement Group may be too low key, need clear leadership.

Campus Leader, Samaritan College Secondary

Student Population

Samaritan has different students to Caritas in Port Augusta, with fewer aboriginal students across the whole school, (approximately 12 in Years 8-12). LLN is less of an issue with Samaritan students according to the Principal, although achievement levels are lower than desired. The school community has a considerable number of mining families (15-20) and One Steel families, with some of the latter transitioning to the One Steel mine. The mine has brought in new families and has delivered two new teachers via the influx of new workers. Samaritan is consolidating their primary schools into one new campus in several years but don't intend to grow the senior school.

School Offerings and Outcomes

VET is seen as too expensive to run and building the infrastructure not an option. They do have a commercial kitchen within the school. Skills for All students go to TAFE from the school but ultimately they have to leave school for serious Pre-Vocational courses. Of approximately 80 year 12 graduates all will apply for university, 50 will go direct, mostly in Adelaide (others defer, gap year etc.) and ten boys will go to apprenticeships. One Steel's relationship with the school is very strong and eight or nine year 11s will take up engineering cadetships which will see them move to Edward John Eyre or TAFE for VET. Several girls are doing childcare courses at TAFE via Skills for All. There are a number of ex-students studying at university online now e.g., Charles Darwin University and only a few doing Social Work or Nursing at University of South Australia in Whyalla.

Upper Spencer ICAN Program Manager DECD

Program Overview

Operates across Whyalla, Port Augusta, Quorn, Leigh Creek, Roxby Downs, Cooper Pedy and Maree currently expanding with a second person starting. ICAN is in part a South Australian response to COAG funding. Interstate schools get the funds directly, whereas South Australian schools acquire via Flexible Learning Options (FLO). Delivers flexible learning and transition plans for students from Yr. 6 to aged 19. Some delivery within schools and/or delivered by approved external community providers. ICAN staff play a key role to create and monitor the community partnerships and providers. Four grades of FLO students. Grades 3 and 4 are the outsourced students e.g., Learning and Case Management at Mission Australia for a Grade 4 that may not have attended school regularly for four years.

Special Features of the Region

Percentage of FLO assessed students is relatively high, similar to students and schools in the outer northern Adelaide. Whyalla Stuart Junior HS has 60 FLO, and Whyalla Junior High School acknowledged the existence of FLO eligible students within their population in 2012. Port Augusta High School (PASS) no longer operates as a FLO school and has taken the funding and applied it to internal programs designed to work with the disengaged, e.g., YES program and Workabout Centre. HeadSpace program will be operating in area soon which is an important initiative as youth suicide is an important issue in the region.

Reported Concerns

- The area suffers from a lack of quality offsite options for the program. This restricts the range of alternative activities that can be drawn upon to attract and retain disengaged young people. Trying to develop Plaza Youth and Youth Centre up to speed.
- Mental health, homelessness issues and chronic welfare problems within certain families not well acknowledged and resourced in Whyalla (as opposed to Port Augusta).
- There is "problem fatigue" in Port Augusta with complaints of too much scrutiny.
- Some concern that PASS approach will leave the most disaffected isolated from any form of learning as some young people will not enter a school campus regardless of the program on offer.

- Concern that Roxby Down has a number of students that should be FLO eligible but are not seen as that because of funding and eligibility models. Concern about dysfunctional families with substance abuse, neglect and moral hazard issues as opposed to financial ones.
- Need to recognise that the numbers funded by FLO does not reflect the total number of potentially eligible students in the region.
- Concern that *Skills for All* will not cater for the most disadvantaged.

Evaluation, Outcomes re ICAN

Data is not currently available on the performance of ICAN program which at the time of writing is under evaluation. Destinations data for 2011 should be available soon but consideration is being given to new processes as some good outcomes which are not well captured by current reporting. Anecdotal evidence suggests that Building Family Opportunities has had a positive impact on young people within the selected families in Port Augusta. Good ICAN e.g., in Leigh Creek/Moree where 20 indigenous FLO students have worked on the Farina Restoration Project alongside retired volunteers and funding has enabled them to achieve white cards for employment ('Work safely in the construction industry' qualifications) but again no outcomes data.

Port Augusta

The Port Augusta Council and Chief Executive Officer have been instrumental in the commissioning of key reports considered here.

Port Augusta at the Crossroads (May 2009)

The Crossroads Report summarised research conducted with the Port Augusta community, the purpose of the research which was;

“to identify the issues, opportunities and potential actions to create a step change in Aboriginal engagement in learning and employment for the Port Augusta community.”

We draw from that report a summary of the current situation (as that is the baseline from which to measure change), the key issues and challenges and the key recommendations for action. Not all of the report is relevant to Port Pirie and Whyalla; however critical elements are because some baseline indicators are similar for Aboriginal citizens across the region.

Current situation

The Aboriginal population is excluded from full participation in the region because of:

- incomplete education and training, low levels of qualifications and relevant skills and hence restricted access to employment;
- low income, reliance on the welfare system and more limited access to healthy lifestyle leading to chronic health problems;
- far greater involvement with the judicial system and prison; and
- lower achievement in literacy and numeracy which is a key foundation/generic skill for all opportunities that life offers.

The report cited publicly available statements from the Social Inclusion Atlas (DPAC: SA) with respect to education that represent a baseline from which to measure success and change:

- only 6 per cent of Aboriginal students completed year 12 (2006);
- year 10 retention rate for Aboriginal students was 40 per cent and for non-Aboriginal 77 per cent;
- year 12 retention rates were 88 per cent and 99 per cent respectively (that speaks to what can be achieved!); and
- 55 per cent of Aboriginal people entering apprenticeships in the past three years dropped out prior to completion.

Data for 2007 to July 2012 shows that the number of Indigenous Apprenticeships and Trainee commencements across the State has increased from 571 in 2007 to 955 as at July 2012. In the same period commencements across the three cities have increased from 76 to 136. (Data on completions is forthcoming.)

Key statements, issues, challenges

In helping Aboriginal youth achieve their ambitions there is one goal “we can agree on [and that] is for every Aboriginal person to be able to read and write.”

- kids from engaged families have an 85 per cent attendance record at school or higher – the challenge is to engage families;
- integrated services need to be able to address health, poor nutrition, low income and welfare dependency, housing, family instability and domestic violence in a systematic fashion;
- build the self-esteem of young people that requires concerted long-term effort and investment. There are too many programs and people “that come and go”;
- moderate success isn’t good enough, we can’t be satisfied until we have full participation”, “the goal has to be 100 per cent engagement for all – starting with Year 1”;
- “integrated programs are the way to go”, “live, learn and work together for now and later in life”;
- bring together learning foundations (literacy and numeracy), cultural understanding and practical skills;

Crossroads: recommendations for action

The Crossroads Report provided several steps forward that are very consistent with SACES own findings and issues raised with our researchers during numerous interviews, including:

- the need for leadership, a vision and the willingness to take ownership of issues, including embracing the whole community;
- greater collaboration between programs including a central source of information, advice and support for current and potential ‘learners’ and ‘job seekers’;
- changing mindsets (a positive attitude to shared vision and goals) that involves setting higher expectations for the individual, their peers and families;

- an integrated community strategy with positive success stories, and a celebration of the community, its common bonds, achievements and diversity.

The researchers endorse these steps: they could be summarised as a need for leadership, a refusal to accept passivity, a need if you identify a problem then take responsibility for identifying a solution, a need to invest in yourself and your family and a significant festival/event to raise the profile of the City. Local ownership of initiatives designed to achieve clear outcomes in the immediate and longer term are necessary to garner community support.

The Crossroads Report speaks to “no obvious clear, positive, unified leadership across the Aboriginal community in Port Augusta – 4 groups who claim traditional ownership and up to 26 different linguistic groups” (p. 19). We encountered similar findings and recognise the cultural context for Aboriginal communities, including the role of community elders and service providers in assisting Aboriginal youth in particular. It is important to acknowledge differences – notwithstanding, visit any western suburb of Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide and you will find 26 different nationalities, new migrants, refugees, those on low income, unemployed or receiving welfare support, 26 (or more) different languages and cultural identities, with different cultural rituals and histories – and as one respondent noted

“their children attend school and parents hunger to attend Adult Community Education (ACE) courses to improve literacy and numeracy and to access community health services, so cultural practices can support success.”

It is absolutely vital that there are rapid improvements in school attendance and retention rates and then improvements in literacy and numeracy will follow so that an Indigenous population of some 17 per cent in Port Augusta can realistically aim for that percentage of employment and workforce participation.

If we name the problems we can focus on solutions!

If we never name the problem it is difficult to establish steps or initiatives to attain outcomes that are feasible.

And finally:

“No one’s seeing the big picture or sharing a vision for where this community is headed. Leadership of both the white and black population is fragmented and incoherent.”

The Owens Report

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation³⁴ appointed Mr Lewis Owens as Special Adviser to the Minister to provide a report on “Observations of Service Delivery Issues at Port Augusta”. The Owens Report formed the view that there was no shortage of programs or funding, but that there existed problems delivering positive and sustainable outcomes in Port Augusta [resulting] from a lack of on-going and meaningful coordination between Commonwealth, State and Local Governments. The Port Augusta Urban and Regional Strategy³⁵ and the Aboriginal Community Engagement Group (ACEG) have been established since the completion of the report. Relevant to this report the Owens Report considered that a new governance structure could, *inter alia*, “develop

³⁴ At that time, The Hon. G. Portolesi, MP, now Minister for Education and Child Development (DECD).

³⁵ Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy is a component of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

a shared vision across the Port Augusta community of its achievements, of the contribution of different peoples, and of a positive future in which all contribute and share” (Owens, p. 4)

Most critically, Owens proposed a model for program areas to improve service delivery and coordination to be driven by a high level Executive Committee. He recommended six Program Committees and core areas (and he indicated some of the representatives on each of the committees, including for an Aboriginal representative on each committee):

- a high level Executive Committee (three tiers of government, report to COAG);
- Community Culture; Community Safety; Children and Youth; Housing and Infrastructure; Health and Welfare; and Employment and Skills. It was further proposed that each of the six Program Committees develop a strategic plan to address the key issues, with targets, timelines and reporting mechanisms. (See later discussion on Aboriginal Community Engagement Group.)

A contextual statement in regard to the Davenport Community and the Aboriginal population in Port Augusta is that the former is estimated to range between 150 to 300 persons while there are 2,500+ Aboriginal persons in Port Augusta. The Davenport Community derives from previous operation of a Mission, where the land is now held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust and is leased to the Community Council on a long term lease. It is effectively “private land”, the status of which has complicated arrangements for the three tiers of government, the Community Council and service providers. The Owens Report simply states that strong action is required now to address the legacy of history; a new governance structure is required while the Davenport Community needs assistance to consider its future.

One of the critical insights of the Owens Report was an acknowledgement of the remarkable work that is being done by so many committed and talented individuals and organisations in Port Augusta.

Centre for Dialogue Report

Following the Owens Report the Port Augusta City Council commissioned the Centre for Dialogue at the Australia National University to host a dialogue with 85 persons to “start a process of change and to identify solutions to the problems of Aboriginal disadvantage and ways to develop a more inclusive and harmonious future for all its citizens”.

The important insights of the Owens Report were confirmed in the community dialogue where the issues that attracted most attention were an almost exact mirror of those raised earlier and which we group into eight key areas as in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1
Comparison of core areas/key issues in each report

Low Owens Report	ANU Community Dialogue
High level Executive Committee (three tiers of government, report to COAG)	Duplication and Coordination of Services
Community Culture	Racism (community culture, art)
Community Safety	Justice and Prison System, Family/Domestic/ Lateral Violence, Healing, Counselling and Elders
Children and Youth	Education
Housing and Infrastructure	Housing and Davenport Community
Health and Welfare	Health (substance abuse & gambling)
Employment and Skills	Employment

A unifying theme in both reports is that Port Augusta has many “assets and its achievements need to be recognised and celebrated. It was unanimously recognised that Port Augusta has the potential to become a leading community in Australia and to create models of unity for other communities”. (ANU, p. 6) The ANU Dialogue report then considered each of the issues in turn and provided background to each issue, possible solutions and step to achieve progress on each issue

Box 6.1 summarises the Dialogue discussion and some possible initiatives to address Education and Training issues in Port Augusta. There are considerable resources devoted to education and training and immense goodwill from all persons we interviewed across the education and training sector and the Indigenous community. This goodwill needs to be transformed into tangible and measurable improvements and outcomes. Indigenous communities are making available scholarship funding and school based funding out of trust funds derived from ownership of mining lands, the Owens Report highlights that “Port Augusta has wonderful training facilities and programs: it has the \$3m ETSA Utilities training centre, a large TAFE campus, the Bungala training centre, excellent school-based skills programs and more, while DECD in Port Augusta has a number of dedicated programs which are showing signs of success. Additional programs are being introduced (e.g., the Workabout Centre) and the Polly Farmer Foundation for more committed students. However, it generally acknowledged that more needs to be done on pre-school support to get children to a basic level of literacy and numeracy before starting formal education and to support parents at this formative stage. There is a potential role here for the Adult Community Education sector in working with the older generation alongside support for families with children in the education system.

However, as noted in Box 6.1 it is critical that higher school attendance rates can be achieved if resources are to be used effectively and improved outcomes are to be achieved.

Box 6.1

The Dialogue stressed the importance of education and acknowledged that all children who miss out on early learning of literacy and numeracy are severely disadvantaged in school and in the labour market. The whole community, the schools and parents are trying to address “why children are not coming to school with many Aboriginal children missing up to 25 days out of a 47.5 day term, while the acceptable rate is 2.5 days per term”. This is clearly an issue of great concern to all and a number of ‘achievable solutions’ were discussed. One practical suggestion was to examine the Best Practice model of attendance at the Mimili Community where all 65 students are Indigenous and the school has achieved an attendance rate of 85.0 per cent in 2007, up from 68.9 per cent in 2002 through a variety of strategies.

The Dialogue considered some eleven options and possible strategies. It is clear that there needs to be coordination across the whole community and education providers to improve attendance rates in education which are the platform for improved outcomes in other spheres (e.g., literacy and numeracy, vocational training, skills for employment, better use of vocational training facilities, etc)

Another example relates to the Justice and Prison system where Port Augusta prison has a 55 per cent Aboriginal population³⁶ compared to the average share of population of just 17 per cent in Port Augusta. BHP Billiton already operates a training program in the prison to build workforce skills (recently employed 16 of 23 graduates) and this could be expanded through the State-based *Skills for All* initiative and South Australia Work training programs. The Owens Report stated that some individuals were being imprisoned for ‘minor offences’ and this suggest that sentencing (i.e., a diversionary court) and community response for low-risk offenders might support referral to training and a requirement to participate in skills development training in lieu of a prison sentence.

There is a real appetite for change following on from the Crossroads Report then the Owens Report and finally the Dialogue Report and with the establishment of the Aboriginal Community Engagement Group (ACEG) which comprises 21 Aboriginal people who are accepted as community representatives.

The ACEG has established four groups to immediately address key priorities,

- healthy home and safe communities;
- learning (early childhood education and schooling);
- governance and leadership; and
- health and economic participation.

The ACEG was established under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap), sitting within the Urban and Regional Strategy – Port Augusta Initiative (URS-PAI) and is the vehicle that is responding to various reports on Port Augusta.

TAFE SA: Port Augusta and Proposed Development

TAFE Institutes across South Australia are being developed both in terms of physical infrastructure (capital investment) and in regard to the style and purpose of each campus. A refocus of each campus is in progress with the dual structure of, in the

³⁶ Such a high percentage is also due to the lack of other prison facilities in the region so that the prison serves a very wide area.

metropolitan area at least, a community campus offering generalist education courses and industry training campus (ITC) centres offering specialist or higher certificate courses. Older and outdated facilities are being closed (e.g., Marlestone) and replaced with newer facilities such as Tonsley Park Sustainable Industries Education Centre.³⁷ Students in regional centres will continue with access to entry level Certificates but as they advance in their studies (e.g., say to Certificate III in Diesel Mechanics) then they will continue to attend the specialist training centres in Adelaide.

The Tonsley campus, the Regency Park campus (which has a world class reputation in cooking, food and beverage and hospitality management) and the three non-metropolitan campus at Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Port Augusta are proposed for major infrastructure upgrades. In Whyalla it is proposed to upgrade the instrumentation workshop, service areas and library and engineering trade works area.

It is proposed to reduce the “footprint” of the Port Augusta campus and to significantly upgrade facilities in this process. An application for \$16 million under the Education Infrastructure Fund (EIF) is currently before the Federal Government. Design work at Port Augusta includes new and more flexible classrooms, a new engineering and trades section to provide an expanded range of engineering programs including toolmaking, welding and automotive and the retention of the existing basic programs for business management, IT, Community Service, Literacy and Numeracy and Indigenous programs. The University of Adelaide proposes to use the Port Augusta TAFE facilities to conduct education courses. Current VET study areas are shown in Table 6.2.

An announcement on the EIF funding proposal is expected in mid-2012.

It is a general view of those commenting on TAFE facilities and institutions that the teaching/ instruction/course quality is of a very high standard, but that TAFE facilities are significantly underutilised and there is considerable scope to innovatively respond to the marketplace and market demands.

The situation in Roxby Downs is that the workshop areas in the TAFE Campus (machining, welding, auto) will be expanded through funding from the Trade Training Centre Commonwealth fund. The Roxby Downs Area School (2012 enrolments = 601) and TAFE cooperate on vocational pathways through the Desert Trade Training Centre that will continue to expand with this new funding and the training guarantee.

TAFE Regional and Aboriginal Access Centre

The Institute will become even more trade oriented if the Education Infrastructure Fund bid to redevelop the Port Augusta TAFE site is successful. It will have the facilities and staff to provide training for the minerals and resources sector, *inter alia*, heavy engineering, diesel mechanics, metal fabrication and general machinery and equipment.

Previously there have been cost barriers to TAFE Regional providing courses to participants in South Australia Works programs and school based programs. Skills for All is not only a significant reform in funding and the resolution of fee barriers to entry but it will challenge TAFE Regional to become far more entrepreneurial, inventive and

³⁷ This Centre on the old Mitsubishi site at Tonsley Park will specialise in training in new green technologies, including building and construction, bricklaying, plumbing, carpentry and design. Building and construction courses currently offered across five TAFE campus will be consolidated into this one specialist campus.

responsive to industry and student demand. Training and development will be required for all staff to operate in a new, competitive environment.

Table 6.2
VET study areas at TAFE campuses in the Upper Spencer Gulf region, including Roxby Downs 2011-2012

Area of Study	Roxby Downs	Port Pirie	Whyalla	Port Augusta
Accounting and Finance			X	X
Aged Care		X	X	
Automotive	X	X	X	X
Beauty Therapy			X	
Carpentry and Furnishing		X		X
Children's Services		X	X	
Community Services		X	X	X
Conservation and Land Management				X
Disability Work and Advocacy		X		
Electrical and Renewable Energy	X		X	X
Engineering and Transport			X	
Fabrication and Welding	X			
General IT and Support		X	X	X
Hairdressing			X	
Hospitality			X	
Horticulture				X
Library and Teaching Support	X	X	X	X
Literacy and Numeracy		X	X	X
Management and Administration	X	X	X	X
Mechanical Engineering			X	
Mental Health and Drug Education			X	
Mining and Exploration				X
Network and Administration		X	X	
Nursing		X	X	
Occupational Health & Safety	X		X	
Programming – Software Development		X	X	
Retail		X		
Youth Work		X		
Women's Education			X	

Source: TAFE SA.

Port Augusta Institute continues to work closely with Oz Minerals in the delivery of pre-employment programs where course graduates are offered employment with the company mid-way through their course. It continues to be a highly successful program with considerable similarities to the GOAL 100 program conducted under South Australia Works in Whyalla.

The Aboriginal Access Centre is responsible for the conduct of the Oz Minerals course. The Centres (they are located in Whyalla, Port Augusta, Coober Pedy, and Oodnadatta) are funded to provide support for Aboriginal people in TAFE/VET. They employ Aboriginal staff who provide various supports to learners. The Oz Minerals 16 week program where half way through, if performance is satisfactory the student is promised

a job, is highly successful relative to those programs that offer a traineeship but no job on completion.

The Access Centre also identified significant need for basic literacy and numeracy courses, including that not enough was being done for Aboriginal children in early childhood and kindergarten years.

It appears that there is considerable scope in Port Augusta alone to provide courses in nurse education, community service, aged care, hospitality and hairdressing especially for young women who are under-represented in enrolments.

Port Augusta Secondary School

Background

Port Augusta Secondary School is currently undergoing consolidation into one upgraded campus, combining junior and senior schools with a new Trade Training Centre (TTC). The new TTC is funded under the Building Education Revolution plus DEEWR Trade Training Centres in Schools Program with additional school upgrade funding. TTC will open for classes in May 2012 with interim arrangements for metal fabrication and pre-mining with TAFE until this time.

The following is “a snapshot” of endeavours by the school to respond to a very diverse mix of students, their background, interests and abilities and links to vocational training and industry.

Specialist Programs

Resource Industries Pathways Program: the program is for students identified in year 9 for commencement in year 10 (with some joining in year 11). Aim is to achieve apprenticeships in hard trades. Students work to achieve a Certificate III in years 11 and 12 alongside of achieving SACE and leave school with entry into a second year apprenticeship. The program is achieving 100 per cent outcomes. An estimated 16 students will enter the program in 2012 of which several will be Aboriginal.

Workabout Centre: a transitional program for years 10-12 which focuses on work readiness and work experience based at TAFE with PASS employed staff. It has an average of 15 young people in the program. Some good outcomes but all students have significant barriers, especially LLN. The program caters to Aboriginal youth and is linked with the Aboriginal Access Centre at TAFE which has one female employee. It seems to cater for ICAN/FLO students who are very marginally attached to school. It appears to have an uncertain future as PASS has concerns that the program could be run a little better.

Internal and External Apprenticeship Brokers: Internal broker position within school is well funded (Geoff Schulkz former manager of Australian Technical College) and successful while external brokers link into the school but are marginal as they don't know the kids. Good relationships with employers and young people and achieved 30 to 40 apprenticeships in 2011.³⁸ The two brokers are also trusted and known by the

³⁸ Trainee Apprenticeship Services data for 2007 to July 2012 shows 105 Indigenous Apprenticeship commencements and 482 traineeship commencements for the three cities.

Aboriginal families. An active and nurturing role is taken as apprenticeship training can fall over fairly easily, especially amongst the Aboriginal kids.

PASS has established an *Extension Centre for LLN* as a trial to deal with the LLN issue as previously discussed. Two new Assistant Principals have been appointed to develop this work. LLN staff development for all staff is supported by Flinders University

Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) and Trade Training: a new Assistant Principal has been appointed for YES which has taken over FLO student dollars and incorporated them into new programs for in-school alternatives rather than off campus under a Single Student Funding Model. Approximate current enrolments are 70+ young people. Support services include access to a Social Worker, Youth Worker, two Aboriginal Education Officers, General Practitioner, Psychologist, to case manage students and create pathway plans into employment. The aim is for the school to be the one stop shop.

Under the YES program there are a range of personal support activities, approximately 14 VET in school courses, a further 10 programs for boys and girls in the community and at school and school based health services.

Skills for All has in place an agreement between DECD and DFEEST that will assist students to move seamlessly into TAFE overcoming the previous fee barrier.

New trade training facility onsite is intended to assist with creating pathways for mainstream and non-mainstream students into employment and further education. The facility is close to completion. It will enable the number of courses to be expanded including diesel mechanics, automotive and mining operations in addition to the current YES program.

Future Directions-literacy, girls, work skills and aboriginal engagement

PASS looking at building its own facilities for cookery as it is currently sending some students to Hawker to access training. Concern that Port Augusta TAFE is very male oriented so the school needs to respond to unmet needs of girls. This is a potential growth area for TAFE and Skills for All provides the mechanisms to increase enrolment of young women.

PASS has also appointed a new Assistant Principal responsible for Aboriginal Education and a new consultative structure to better engage with parents. Currently developing 2012 Academic Service Agreements to be established with individual parents to support aboriginal students participation and engagement. These will outline shared responsibilities and ensure improved communication between school and parents.

The concept is to create a range of programs, supported by staff development and new facilities and a range of new Assistant Principals. These are designed to directly tackle widespread LLN problems and ensure that a range of student needs can be met- from the very disengaged student through to the higher achievers and to take into account the needs of the Aboriginal population.

Community Engagement Officer Davenport Council

The Officer had an extensive involvement in an aboriginal run alternative school based on transformative educational principles funded by DECD FLO money. The Tjinatjunanyi Program was run by Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress in Port Augusta (Congress). The target group was very disaffected youth with violent, drug and alcohol problems. It also attracted parents. It was supported by the Uniting Church. The program was closed because of criticism regarding how the funding was managed. Di Russell (an Aboriginal Educator involved with the program) supported the comments of the Engagement Officer that the program had up to 20 students who attended the program four days a week often with parents and family members. The attendees had a previous poor record of attendance at school, they were very disaffected.

The researchers are not sufficiently knowledgeable as to why the Tjinatjunanyi Program was cancelled, nor what replaced it and how successful that has been.

We do however stress that there is no objective test or evidence that we have sighted that provides a policy informed position as to “what works well” and this is a responsibility of government as the basis for policy and program development.

There is a general view that the Carlton Primary School had been underperforming for a considerable period of time, principally because of inexperienced teachers who are unfamiliar with Aboriginal students, their families and community and generally has had difficulty in providing a culturally appropriate curriculum. Attention to this situation is urgent because most agreed that the performance of the school and relationship with Aboriginal parents has been a contributing factor in poor literacy and numeracy.

The Engagement Officer stressed the importance of far more intensive training for Aboriginal workers who were looking to work in mining jobs. Citing issues with literacy and numeracy, inadequate mentoring, work preparation and being drug free she said that to the “communities knowledge up to 76 persons were offered opportunities to work with mining companies and only 4 to 5 stayed”.

Regional Universities

The University of South Australia has a regional campus in Whyalla, Flinders University a Marine Science Centre in Port Lincoln and the University of Adelaide is planning a regional location in Port Augusta.

The University of South Australia Whyalla Campus is potentially (along with TAFE SA) the future heart of a C21st Education Precinct. The University of South Australia has an education infrastructure proposal before the Commonwealth to undertake major upgrades at Whyalla and Mount Gambier (estimated at \$23m) that will further extend educational courses in the region.

The University recently announced (July 2012) that it would offer a Bachelor of Education degree in Whyalla adding to current courses in Engineering, Accounting, Business and Enterprise, Business Ventures, Nursing, Social Work and Foundation Studies, the last course which caters for students who did not complete year 12 but are seeking to return to study. The University provides for on-campus accommodation, through the Centre for Regional Engagements it is possible to complete a Ph.D. research

program. The range of degree courses means that significant numbers of students are able to “stay home” rather than have to study externally or move to Adelaide and as the Minister for Regional Development has consistently noted, students who are able to study in the region tend to take up professional positions within the region.

The Bachelor of Education degree has already attracted interest and intentions to enrol and it would be beneficial for the USGCPG to continue to be informed of student numbers across all courses and the three Universities on an on-going basis.

The University of Adelaide is developing a business plan “... to drive its commitment to long-term engagement in the region, focussing on developing market intelligence and greater understanding of community needs in order to determine viable strategies for the delivery of education services.”

What is currently planned at the Flinders Terrace premises (Port Augusta) is to house rural Health Science staff, staff from the Indigenous Health Unit, the Smith Family and visiting University staff.

The University has supported a \$16 million application for new facilities on the Port Augusta TAFE SA campus, so that teaching faculties can be accommodated at that site.

Initially, the University will run the Compass program (including Multi-Literacy activities) in DECD Port Augusta Primary Schools from 2013. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school Wilto Yerlo will contribute to literacy and numeracy curriculum, community outreach and engagement programs and a role for the School of Education and Professional Continuing Education will be developed in response to community needs.

The USGCPG has a role to play in linking the University of Adelaide into the community. Specifically, it has the ability to inform the University through its local employer contacts of potential courses for business training and professional education; it is able to draw together educational leadership to ensure that the plans of DECD, the University and the Commonwealth are joined up. For example, the Compass program fits within the concept of a Youth University (strongly supported by the CEO of DECD) and which could contribute in meaningful ways to engagement of young Indigenous students.

The Polly Farmer Foundation is supporting students who have chosen a university pathway and needs to be linked into undergraduate preparation courses for of potential students. Wilto Yerlo³⁹ and the Faculty of Science are considering ways to support Indigenous students.

The University of Adelaide should consider the appointment of staff who are able to promote a visible presence in the region and who can research unmet demand for adult education, professional development courses, teacher development and to promote undergraduate preparation programs. Strengthening links with the TAFE SA Aboriginal Access Centre and schools in the region will serve the University well.

³⁹ Wilto Yerlo is also active in appointing Student Support Officers and planning for renewed emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

One area where the Faculty of Professions (University of Adelaide) could potentially contribute is in the area of teacher training, supervision of student placements and on-going professional education for teachers. The issue of teacher training, mentoring and professional development of graduate teachers is currently a public policy issue that is receiving considerable attention.

The University has a unique opportunity to link into the structure of responsibility that now rests with DECD (including Families SA) because it can provide support to education – from early childhood development through health services/training right through to adult re-entry programs – and it has the flexibility to trial new initiatives such as links with TAFE SA, undergraduate preparatory programs, the Compass program contributing to the youth university site and second-chance learning programs for adults.⁴⁰

TAFE SA Regional

The TAFE SA Regional system, funding and management structure is not the subject of this report. However, the Institutes are a significant public and community resource with the potential to play a more significant role in educational and vocational leadership in regional communities.

What is concerning is the complexity of the system, the complexity of policy drivers and performance, decisions about access and utilisation of facilities that are “cost per hours driven” within a funding mode that “is student driven” and previous arrangements that effectively restricted use of facilities for school students and the unemployed.

The management structure is essentially a campus service manager – an overseer of facilities and rotating lecturing staff – that is likely to have resulted in higher productivity per lecturer, shifted costs to staff (such as travel time) and reduced the leadership capacity of the Regional TAFE Institute. What is not understood is that the institution has lost community engagement – it is an organisation that is delivering a service in a competitive market. The manner of operation and management does not recognise the relationship with community (a further reason why RDAs are important). The failure to recognise and build this relationship is the principal reason why TAFE Institutes are not the community assets they should be.

The significant reductions in TAFE funding in real terms, the competitive market model in competition with private RTOs, the often inconsistent and complex policy environment has, in our view (based on regional interviews/discussions), diminished the communities involvement and regard for this public asset. There is no visible local leadership, there is no “spruiker” of vocational demand, there is managerialism.

The gradual loss/devolution of “interest/hobby” fee paying short courses, which have never really been able to be fully compensated for within the WEA/ACE network has led to further detachment from the community. This detachment has encouraged individual/private initiatives to establish centres like “Men’s Sheds”.

⁴⁰ Mission Australia Catalyst program with the support of Flinders University provides adult re-entry programs in Adelaide, hosted at the WEA site in Angas Street.

The Skills for All reform will have to address these perceptions and not simply through higher funding levels for public providers. There needs to be much stronger encouragement for local entrepreneurship and thought given to valuing responsiveness to community demand (i.e., a non-financial factor included in return on investment).

Critics of TAFE point to the supply-led funding model and central planning (i.e., control vs local autonomy) as reasons for slow responses to labour market and regional labour market needs. Skills for All and the emphasis on a student and industry demand driven system will go some way to restoring the culture, but local autonomy is also about leadership, promotion, flair and encouragement for communities to participate in education and feel a sense of pride and ownership.

TAFE needs to re-build the relationship with regional communities and a potential structure/model is that of the regionalised South Australia Works program.

South Australia has seven non-metropolitan uniform regions that “mirror” the RDA regions and the South Australia Works networks. Within each region are TAFE Regional campuses. The labour market and skill demands in each region reflect different industry structures and new and emerging industries. Secondary school VET participation including School-based apprenticeships are signals to the TAFE/VET system of future likely demand from school leavers. Couple this with information from local employers, information from RDAs and Industry Skill Boards, job vacancy data, planned investment in the region and labour market data it would appear possible for much of the complexity of TAFE program funding (and Commonwealth funding) to be streamlined and allocated direct to regional structures.

Consideration, as the “training space is opened up” should be given to revitalising TAFE Regional, including

- how best and more effectively to collaborate with local industry to meet workforce requirements;
- how strengthening local relationships can build real partnerships to support local economic development;
- how better to link schools, SA Works with pathways into VET/TAFE and into employment;
- new governance arrangements that are more flexible and more quickly are able to respond to new markets;
- more strongly connecting with the community, able to promote vocational participation; and
- how to achieve critical mass in a contestable, competitive market to ensure financial viability, improve facility utilisation and to meet community service obligations.

Funding Programs

There are a considerable number of funding programs to support employers and job seekers, but it is important to note that programs tend to be piecemeal, often short-term and are generally tightly focussed. Under the DEEWR Building Australia’s Future Workforce there are a number of programs under the Skills Connect Measure:

- National Workforce Development Fund;
- Workplace English Language and Literacy program;
- Accelerated Australia Apprenticeships;
- Australian Apprenticeship Mentoring;
- Experience + Training, Experience + Help for Mature Aged Workers;
- Indigenous Employment Program;
- JSA Employment Pathways Fund;
- DES; and
- Local Employment Co-ordinator Funding pool.

State labour market and vocational training effort includes:

- Skills for All and school-based vocational training;
- South Australia Works;
- Career Development Services;
- Aboriginal Access Centres.

As an example of the significant relationship between RDAs, the local labour market, supported by DEEWR funding, the Local Employment Co-ordinator (DEEWR) has worked with DFEST Regional Co-ordinator and RDA Workforce Development Staff in relation to two programs which will be rolled out across the Upper Spencer Gulf and across the Southern Flinders.

Youth Exploring Potential (YEP)

The expansion of the youth focussed project will have the working title – Youth Exploring Potential.

Fundamentally, the project has a service delivery focus embedded in a non-compliance driven engagement model that supports young people to link with existing services at the right time in their personal development, combined with a flexible approach that supports individuals to overcome barriers to learning or earning.

Consultation has raised interest with, and solidified support from stakeholders in the Priority Employment Area regarding the further development and implementation of the existing, successful project model in Whyalla and Eyre. Stakeholders have examined the project model and agree that it meets the needs of youth in Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Peterborough.

South Australia Works Southern Flinders have confirmed an allocation of \$60,000 and the Department of Education and Child Development ICAN program have confirmed an allocation of \$40,000. South Australia Works Far North have committed to allocate \$60,000 which may be partly derived from an application to the Office for Youth (not yet confirmed) for \$44,000, or be drawn completely from the 2012/13 Action Plan funding allocation. Leveraged funds also ensure services delivered through the project can extend to the feeder towns in the Mid North and Far North, including Gladstone, Wilmington, Jamestown, Port Broughton, Quorn and Wilmington, to ensure young people throughout the region can receive equity of service through the project model. Total DEEWR Funds: \$218,181.82.

Holistic, Whole Family Case Management (BUILDING FAMILIES OPPORTUNITIES)

The Building Family Opportunities (BFO) Program is currently operating in three pilot sites in the state including Port Augusta. The program provides holistic case management to the whole family with the aim to increase the social and economic participation of long-term and intergenerational jobless families. While the core outcomes remain securing sustainable employment for adults and their dependants aged 24 or less, case workers in the program work with families to increase engagement in learning, training or skill development, and promote better health and wellbeing of individuals.

Since June 2010, Uniting Care Wesley South Australia (UCWSA) through BFO in Port Augusta has worked with over 180 people in 43 families; 19 participants within these families have commenced employment in this time. Primary clients and members of the family have participated in a broad range of accredited and non-accredited training and all family members are connected to services within the community to assist in making these outcomes sustainable. Key stakeholders in the existing BFO program have expressed a desire for this Case Management service to be made available to families residing in other regions. Access to appropriate and holistic support can inhibit the ability for families living in the following regions to adequately address the broad range of barriers that families experience to participation in training, learning and employment.

To provide this service to Port Pirie, UCWSA would recruit a 1.0 FTE Case Manager to be based at their existing offices in Port Pirie. This Case Manager would be able to provide a service to 10-12 families at a time over an 18 month period. The Case Manager would receive support and supervision from the Program Manager based between Port Pirie and Port Augusta. The Case Manager will require access to a mobile phone, laptop computer and fleet vehicle to be able to assertively engage with clients in their homes and accurately report on their service delivery.

In Peterborough UCWSA would aim to recruit 1.0 FTE Case Manager to be based in their existing Peterborough office. This would enable the Case Manager to work closely with 8-10 families at a time over an 18 month period. The Case Manager would receive support and supervision from the Program Manager based in Port Augusta. The Case Manager will require access to a mobile phone, laptop computer and fleet vehicle to be able to assertively engage with clients in their homes and accurately report on their service delivery.

Should UCWSA not be able to recruit a Case Manager in Peterborough, they will recruit a Case Manager to service the Peterborough area from their Port Pirie office, situated approximately 110km away. This should still allow the Case Manager to work closely with 8-10 families at a time and the Case Manager would be required to travel a minimum of 3 days per week to engage with this number of families. Total DEEWR Funds: \$327,090,910.

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North will project manage the contracts and subcontractors

Sector specific funding such as for schools and pre-schools, training centres, literacy and numeracy and capital expenditure are also available to the region.

The USGCPG could sponsor a project to identify pathways and assistance to increase employer take-up of apprenticeships and ensure all school leavers are in further education, training or employment. An initiative to follow-up all year 2012 school leavers could add much value to this exercise.

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Appendix A

Regional Profiles: Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, Far North and Yorke and Mid North

Regional Development Australia

Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula

Overview

Geography

- RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula covers an area of 170,500 square kilometres or 17.3 per cent of the State's land mass.

Population

- As at 30th June 2010 the region's population was 58,700 persons or 3.6 per cent of the State's population. The Indigenous population was estimated at 2,500 persons or 4.4 per cent of the region's population.

Economy and Labour force

- The region contributed \$2,297 million to the State economy in 2006/07 or 3.4 per cent of gross state product.
- The four largest employing industries in the Whyalla Eyre Peninsula region were agriculture and fisheries (18.2 per cent), retail trade (14.3 per cent), manufacturing (11.9 per cent) and health and community services (10.9 per cent). Mining was relatively small at 1.4 per cent but is likely to show strong growth in the median term.
- The labour market is relatively strong with a participation rate above the State average and lower unemployment than the State average.
- Participation in VET courses is well above that for the State as a whole, while full-time participation in secondary school at age 16 is 71.4 per cent compared to South Australia at 78.4 per cent.
- NAPLAN reading results at year 3 are 15 percentage points lower than the State average but by year 7 they are 4.5 percentage points below the State average which indicates stronger school attendance over primary years of schooling.

Opportunities for growth

- Airport passenger numbers for Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Ceduna have grown at 6.7 per cent per annum over the last ten years (South Australia: 5.1 per cent) through a combination of domestic tourism demand, workforce growth and industry visitations.
- The region has research facilities that are closely integrated with the industry profile and industry output of the region and it is often the case that industry-research clusters are an engine of innovation and economic growth. One opportunity is clearly the region's potential in renewable energy, including large scale solar establishments.
- The region has a clean and green reputation for agricultural commodities and an international reputation for aquaculture products.

Education and Skills

- It is important that school attendance rates and completion rates are improved so that new entrants to the labour market have generic foundation skills as a platform to achieve higher certificate level qualifications.

Indicators¹

Geography and Population

	RDA Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula	South Australia
Geography		
Land area - square kilometres (includes unincorporated areas)	170,448	985,292
Land area as a percentage of the state - per cent	17.3	100
Area of agricultural land (2006) - hectares '000 ²	3,072	55,408
Demographics		
Total population (2010) - all persons	58,707	1,640,638
Males (2010) - all males	30,299	810,264
Females (2010) - all females	28,408	830,374
Change in population (2001-2010) - per cent change	5.5	9.0
Change in population (2001-2005) - per cent change	1.2	2.8
Change in population (2005-2010) - per cent change	4.2	6.0
Population as a percentage of state population (2010) - per cent	3.6	100.0
Population density (2010) - Persons/square kilometre	0.34	1.67
Birth rate (2010) - babies born per 1,000 people	13.1	12.2
Death rate (2010) - deaths per 1,000 people	8.1	7.9
Population projections (Dept of Planning and Local Government)		
2016	59,842	1,770,644
2021	60,685	1,856,435
2026	61,362	1,935,161
Projected change in population from 2011 to 2026 - per cent	4.46	16.1
CAGR for region, 2011-2026	0.29	1.0
Age profile (2010)		
0-14 years	20.7	17.8
15-24 years	12.3	13.6
25-34 years	12.1	13.0
35-44 years	13.7	13.6
45-54 years	14.3	14.0
55-64 years	11.9	12.3
65-74 years	8.2	8.0
75-84 years	4.9	5.3
85 years and over	1.8	2.3
Indigenous population (2006) - all persons	2,532	24,823
Indigenous population as a percentage of total population (2006) - per cent	4.4	1.6

Note: ¹ All indicators exclude unincorporated areas of South Australia unless otherwise indicated.
² Excludes Maralinga, Tjarutja Lands and Yalata Aboriginal Reserve.

Economy 2006/07

	Gross value ¹ added (\$m)		Gross value added - per cent of total gross regional product		Employment by industry - per cent of total employment	
	RDA WEP	South Australia	RDA WEP	South Australia	RDA WEP	South Australia
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	325	2,603	14.1	3.8	18.2	4.9
Mining	122	2,224	5.3	3.3	1.4	0.9
Manufacturing	341	8,815	14.8	12.9	11.9	13.4
Electricity, gas and water	39	1,884	1.7	2.8	0.6	0.9
Building and construction	172	4,432	7.5	6.5	7.3	6.6
Wholesale trade	69	2,765	3.0	4.0	3.2	4.4
Retail trade	129	3,829	5.6	5.6	14.3	14.9
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	52	1,476	2.3	2.2	4.6	4.4
Transport and storage	98	3,270	4.3	4.8	3.7	3.9
Communication services	23	1,467	1.0	2.1	0.7	1.3
Finance and insurance	59	3,993	2.6	5.8	1.6	3.9
Ownership of dwellings	205	6,074	8.9	8.9	0.0	0.0
Property and business services	128	6,533	5.6	9.6	5.9	9.3
Public administration and defence	44	2,417	1.9	3.5	3.5	5.4
Education	113	3,144	4.9	4.6	8.3	7.6
Health and community services	129	4,974	5.6	7.3	10.9	13.1
Cultural and recreational services	12	1,039	0.5	1.5	0.7	1.8
Personal services	43	1,547	1.9	2.3	3.2	3.9
Total²	2,297	68,327	100	100	100.0	100.0

Note: ¹ The sum of gross value added across all industries plus taxes less subsidies on products equals gross regional/state product at purchasers prices. Gross value added for each region has been estimated by EconSearch using input-output (I-O) models. For additional information on gross value added and definitions of key terms, see ABS, Australian National Accounts, Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2000, Cat. No. 5216.0.

² Total does not include net taxes (i.e., taxes less subsidies on products and production) paid by households and other components of final demand. Therefore totals do not sum to 100 per cent.

Supportive Statistics

	RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	South Australia
Trade¹		
Exports (2006/07) - \$ billions	1.8	27.4
Imports, (2006/07) - \$ billions	2.0	30.8
Labour force		
Labour force (June 2011)	28,826	861,537
Total employed (June 2011)	27,364	814,507
Total unemployed (June 2011)	1,462	47,030
Participation rate (2009)	65.1	63.1
Unemployment rate (June 2011) - per cent	5.1	5.5
Number of job service/disability employment service providers	31	450
Education		
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16 (2006) - per cent	71.4	78.4
Participation in VET courses (2009) - per 1,000 persons	103.8	73.5

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	South Australia
NAPLAN results² (2011) – average score		
Year 3		
Reading	342	402
Spelling	337	392
Numeracy	346	379
Year 5		
Reading	439	478
Spelling	439	474
Numeracy	448	471
Year 7		
Reading	510	534
Spelling	507	533
Numeracy	511	535
Health (selected LGAs)		
Low birth weight babies (2006 to 2008) - as a percentage of total births	7.4	6.8
Mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy (2006 to 2008) - per cent	26.3	16.7
Children fully immunised at 12 to less than 15 months of age (2008) - per cent	91.3	91.8
Obese persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	18.9	17.4
Overweight (not obese) persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	29.7	29.4
Housing characteristics		
Median house price (September quarter 2011) – Port Lincoln - \$	265,000	360,000
Dwelling fully owned (2006) – per cent	32.4	33.7
Dwelling being purchased (2006) – per cent	27.8	33.5
Dwelling being rented (2006) – per cent	32.3	25.6
Rent assistance from Centrelink (March Quarter 2011) - per cent of population	5.5	6.5
Average residential valuation (2010) - \$	223,014	344,446
Average rates per residential property (2010) - \$	931	1,065
Income		
Average wage and salary income (2009) - \$	40,628	41,896
Average own unincorporated business income (2009) - \$	12,569	19,659
Average investment income ⁴ (2009) - \$	6,847	7,651
Average superannuation and annuity income (2009) - \$	24,288	24,793
Income support (selected LGAs)		
Age pension recipients (2009) - per cent	79.7	77.5
Disability support recipients (2009) - per cent	7.8	7.1
Single parent payment recipients (2009) - per cent	7.9	5.8
Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	6.6	4.5
Long-term unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	5.0	3.2
Youth Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	11.4	6.1
Low income and welfare dependant families with children (2009) - per cent	12.7	9.5
Children in low income families (2009) - per cent	25.2	22.0
Health care card holders (2009) - per cent	10.8	8.8
Pensioner concession card holders (2009) - per cent	25.8	23.6
Total Centrelink card holders (2009) - per cent	29.6	26.8

Supportive Statistics (continued)

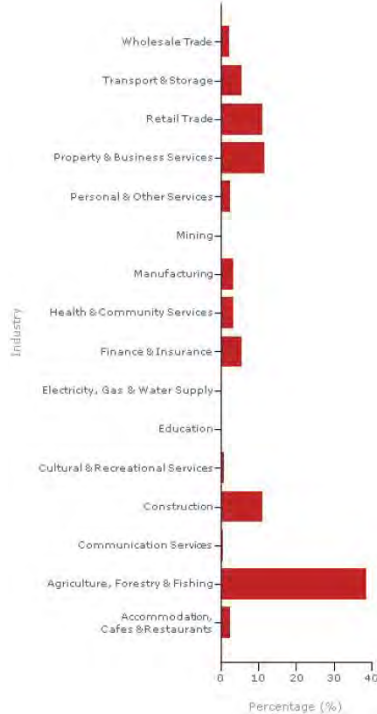
	RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	South Australia
Tourism⁵		
Day visitors (2011)		
Number of domestic day trips – (,000)	429	10,472
Total expenditure by day trippers – \$m	69	944
Average expenditure by day trippers – \$	161	90
Number of overnight visitors (2011)		
Intrastate – (,000)	252	3,150
Interstate – (,000)	73	2,167
Domestic – (,000)	324	5,315
International – (,000)	13	530
Total – (,000)	337	5,845
Number of nights stayed (2011)		
Intrastate – (,000)	1,005	9,473
Interstate – (,000)	463	8,669
Domestic – (,000)	1,468	18,142
International – (,000)	110	8,454
Total – (,000)	1,578	26,596
Expenditure by overnight tourists		
Total domestic overnight expenditure (2011) - \$m	169	2,922
Average expenditure by domestic overnight visitor (2011) - \$	522	602
Characteristics of tourist establishments⁶ (2011)		
Establishments (no.)	26	266
Rooms (no.)	929	12,652
Bed spaces (no.)	2,560	34,583
Persons employed (no.)	696	7,138
Occupancy rate (per cent)	57	62.4
Environmental		
Greenhouse gas emissions (2005/06) - tonnes per person	28.9	20.0
Airports		
Passengers per annum (2010/11)	291,047	7,756,574
CAGR of passenger numbers (2000/01 – 2010/11)	6.7	5.1
Gambling		
No. of electronic gaming machines (2009/10)	984	12,684
NGR (2009/10) - \$/adult	711	571
Taxes (2009/10) - \$/adult	246	222
No. of EGM's per 1,000 adults (2009/10)	14.9	9.9

- Note:
- ¹ The value of exports and imports at the regional level includes intrastate, interstate and international trade.
 - ² NAPLAN scores for the Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula region are based on a selection of DECS primary schools in Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Ceduna, Cleve and Elliston. NAPLAN results are reported using a common scale ranging from 0 to 1000 for years 3, 5, 7 and 9, the scale is divided into ten bands ranging from band one (lowest achievement) to band 10 (highest achievement) as students progress to higher year levels the national minimum standard band level increases reflecting the greater complexity of skills assessed. For more information on interpreting NAPLAN results see www.naplan.edu.au
 - ³ Chronic disease and risk factor estimates not produced for the remote areas of Ceduna, Wudinna and Maralinga Tjarutja, estimates for other LGAs are based on synthetic predictions using 2001 NHS data.
 - ⁴ Investment income includes: interest from financial institutions, net rent and dividends or distributions (including imputation credits) from an Australian company, corporate unit trust or public trading trust and distributions from trusts.
 - ⁵ Tourism data on day visits, overnight visits, number of nights stayed, expenditure and characteristics of establishments is based on regional boundaries according to the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and these differ slightly from Regional Development Australia boundaries (see regional and state profiles at <http://www.tourism.sa.gov.au> for maps of regions according to the SATC).
 - ⁶ Accommodation includes hotels, motels and guest houses and serviced apartments with 5 or more rooms or units; holiday flats, units and houses of letting entities with 15 or more rooms or units; caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites and visitor hostels with 25 or more bed spaces. The breakdown of tourist establishments by type of accommodation e.g., hotels, motels, guest houses, bed and breakfast etc. is not available.

Summary graphs – businesses and employment by occupation

Figures 1 through 4 show data on the number of businesses by industry sector, number of businesses by employee ranges, number of businesses by turnover range and top five occupations by persons employed relative to South Australia.

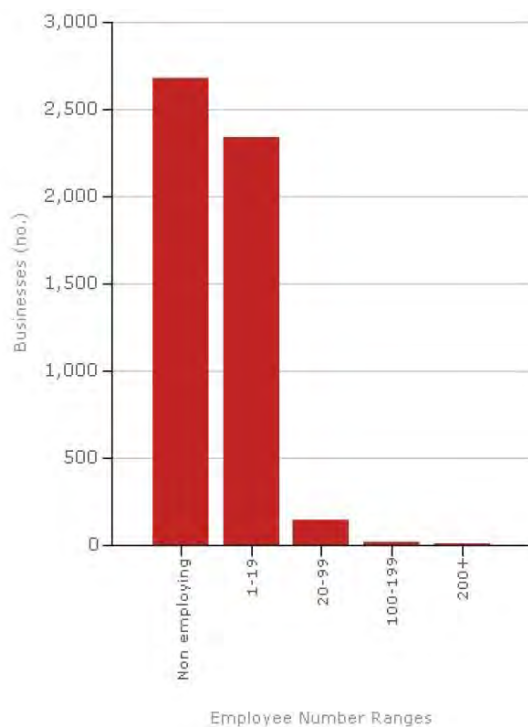
Figure 1: Number of businesses by industry – RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1292.0. Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Eyre and Western EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by industry (boundaries for the Eyre and Western region correspond with Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula boundaries).

Source: EasyData, (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian businesses, including entries and exits, June 2003 to June 2007).

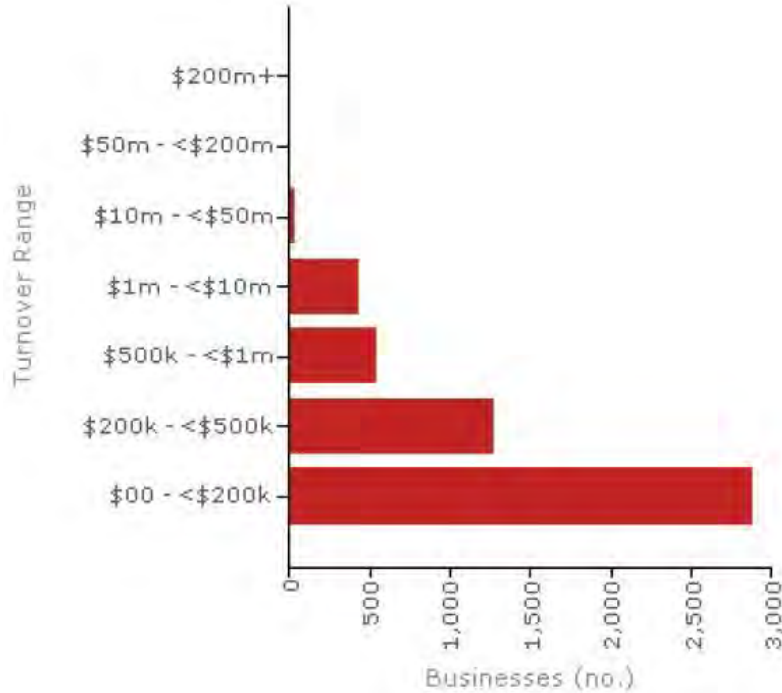
Figure 2: Number of businesses by employee ranges – RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Eyre and Western EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by employee ranges (boundaries for the Eyre and Western region correspond with Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula boundaries).

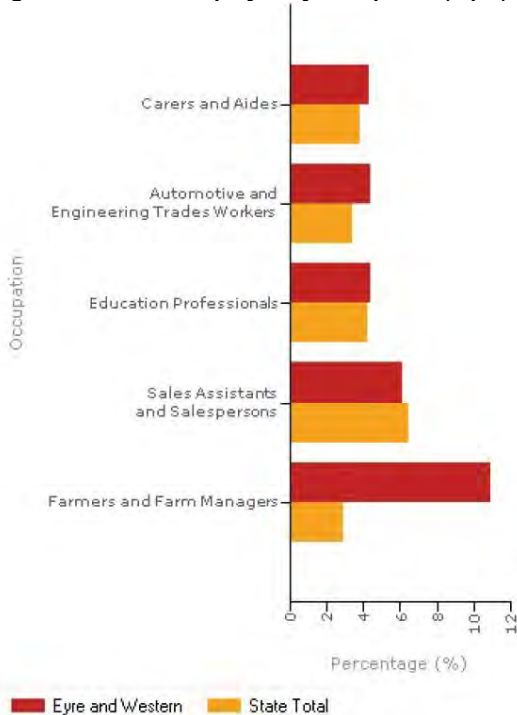
Source: EasyData, (ABS, Cat. No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, June 2003 to June 2007).

Figure 3: Number of businesses by turnover range – RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Eyre and Western EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding the number of businesses by turnover range (boundaries for the Eyre and Western region correspond with Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula boundaries).
Source: EasyData, (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, June 2003 to June 2007).

Figure 4: Persons employed by Occupation (top 5) – RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (ANZSCO) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1220.0 Presented at the Sub-Major Group (or 2-digit) level. Applicable to employed persons only.
Source: EasyData (ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006).

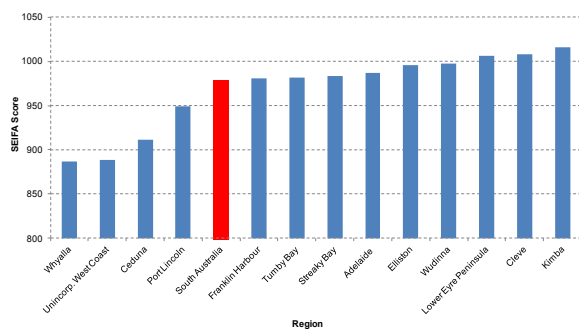
Indicators for local government areas

Figures 5 through 16 show selected indicators for Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) local government areas taken from the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) InstantAtlas. For comparison South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide are included in each graph. Brief commentary is provided of key trends or stand out characteristics in the data.

Based on the Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA index) Whyalla is the most disadvantaged LGA with a SEIFA score of 887; significantly below the South Australian average (979) and metropolitan Adelaide (987). The most advantaged areas are Kimba (1,016) followed by Cleve (1,008), (refer to Figure 5).

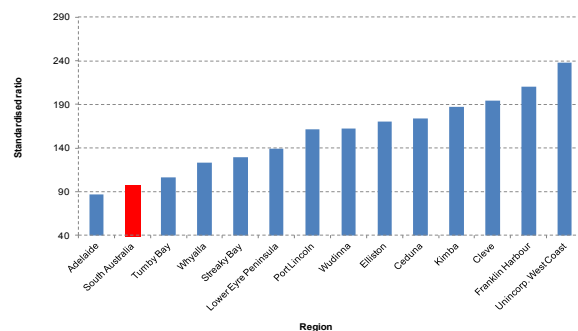
Based on a standardised ratio participation in VET is highest in Unincorporated West Coast (238) followed by Franklin Harbour (210) and Cleve (194). All LGAs of RDAWEP have higher participation in VET relative to South Australia (97) and metropolitan Adelaide (87), (refer to Figure 6).

Figure 5: Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 6: Participation in VET Standardised ratio, 2009



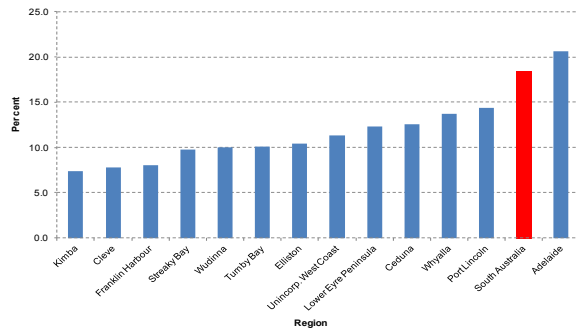
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

The percentage of the population in RDAWEP who identify themselves as professionals is less than 15 per cent in all LGAs. Metropolitan Adelaide and South Australia have the highest proportion of professionals at 20.6 per cent and 18.4 per cent respectively (refer to Figure 7).

Conversely, the proportion employed as labourers is higher for all LGAs compared with metropolitan Adelaide (10.9 per cent) and South Australia (12.4 per cent), (refer to Figure 8). Elliston has the highest proportion of its workforce employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing at 49.4 per cent

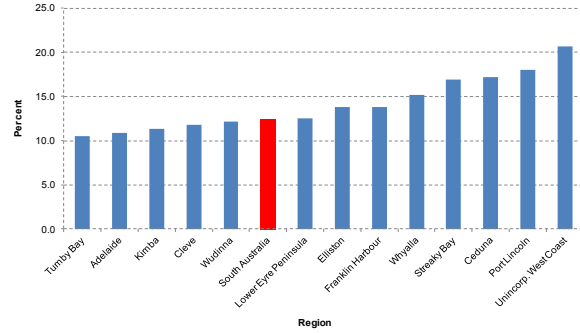
In Unincorporated West Coast 25.6 per cent of families with children are classed as low income families and receive income support followed by Ceduna (16.7 per cent) and Whyalla (15.7 per cent). This compares with 9.3 per cent in metropolitan Adelaide and 9.5 per cent in South Australia (refer to Figure 10).

Figure 7: Occupation – Professionals
Per cent of workforce employed as professionals by local government area, 2006



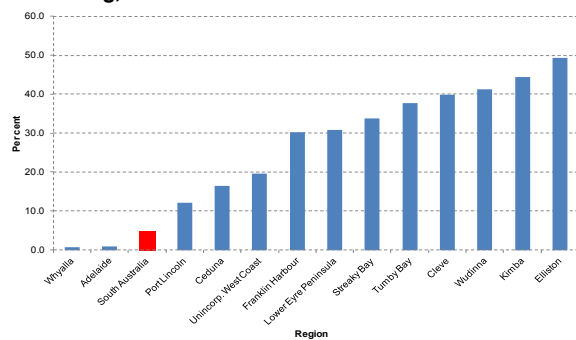
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 8: Occupation – Labourers
Per cent of workforce employed as labourers by local government area, 2006



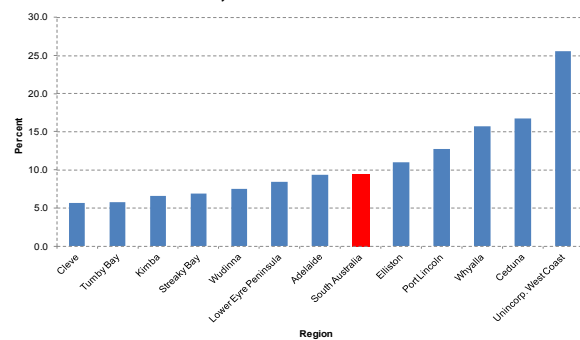
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 9: Industry – Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Per cent of workforce employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 10: Income support recipients
Per cent of welfare dependent and other low income families with children, 2009



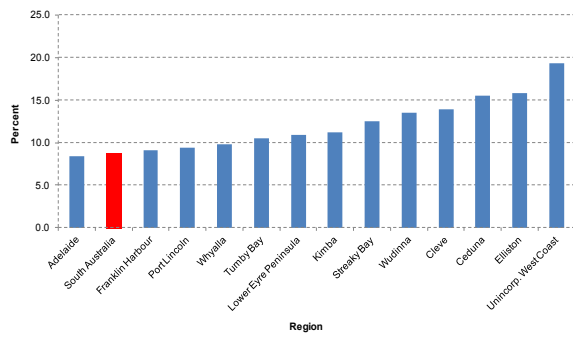
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Residents claiming Centrelink benefits such as, *inter alia* the aged pension and allowances are automatically entitled to a health care card. All LGAs of RDAWEP have a higher proportion of health care card holders than metropolitan Adelaide (8.4 per cent) and South Australia (8.7 per cent) (refer to Figure 11).

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers form 28.0 per cent of the workforce in Unincorporated West Coast followed by Whyalla (26.4 per cent) and Port Lincoln (23.1 per cent) above South Australia (18.2 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (16.4 per cent) (refer to Figure 12).

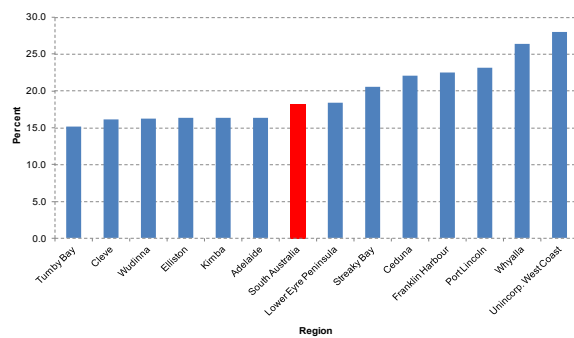
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16 is above the South Australian average (78.3 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (79.6 per cent) in Streaky Bay (90.5 per cent), Tumby Bay (86.7 per cent) and Lower Eyre Peninsula (80.9 per cent), (refer to Figure 14.)

Figure 11: Health care card holders
Per cent, 2009



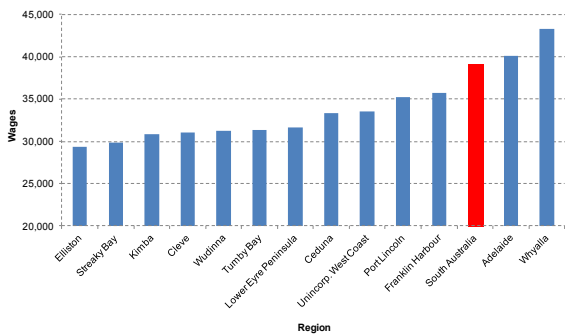
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 12: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers
Per cent, 2006



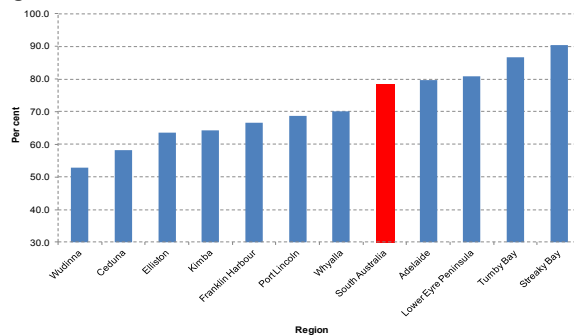
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 13: Wages per capita
Dollars, 2005/06



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 14: Education
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16, Per cent, 2006

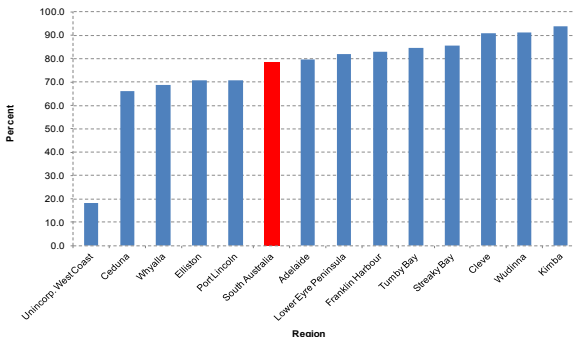


Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

The proportion of 15 to 19 year olds learning or earning is highest in Kimba (93.7 per cent) followed by Wudinna (91.3 per cent) and Cleve (90.8 per cent) compared with 78.4 per cent across South Australia and 79.5 per cent in metropolitan Adelaide, (refer to Figure 15).

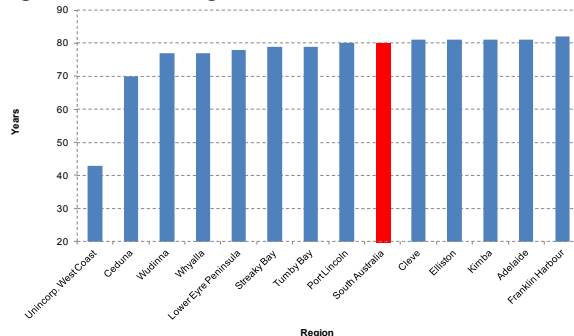
There is no significant difference in median age at death for South Australia (80 years) and LGAs in the RDAWEP region, except in Unincorporated West Coast (43 years) and Ceduna (70 years), refer to Figure 16.

Figure 15: Learning or earning
Per cent of 15 to 19 year olds either working or studying, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 16: Median age at death, 2003 to 2007



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

About the Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula regional plan

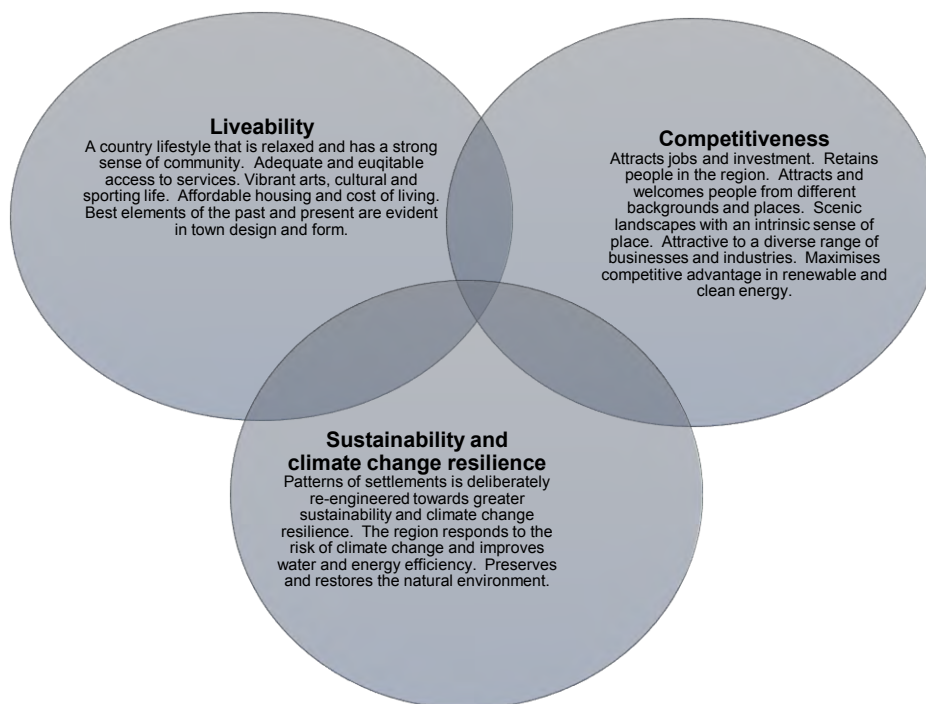
Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula's regional plan sets out the objectives of the region, helping state and local governments to plan for the provision of essential services and infrastructure and guide sustainable economic development and land use in the region.

The plan supports the achievement of a range of economic, social and environmental goals and is closely aligned to South Australia's State Strategic Plan, such that achieving regional goals and targets supports the achievement of state-wide objectives. In addition regional plans tie into state-wide plans for infrastructure, housing, water, natural resources management, waste management and South Australia's economic statement.

The plan has three overlapping objectives representing sustainable community development; these objectives are classified as (see Figure 17):

- Social - to maintain and improve liveability;
- Economic - to increase competitiveness; and
- Environmental - to drive sustainability and resilience to climate change

Figure 17: Objectives of the regional volumes of the South Australian planning strategy



Source: Eyre and Western Region Plan June 2011, Volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy.

Region at a glance⁴¹

The RDAWEP region covers an area of more than 170,448⁴² square kilometres comprising eleven local government areas, two remote Aboriginal communities and one unincorporated area serviced by the Outback Communities Authority (OCA)⁴³.

⁴¹ Descriptions of the Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula region are sourced from Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Regional Profile July 2011 (RDA Roadmap), and the Eyre and Western Regional Plan June 2011 (Department of Planning and Local Government).

⁴² Does not include the wider area of Maralinga Lands.

⁴³ The Outback Communities Authority acts as a management authority for the outback. For more details about the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) functions and objectives see <http://www.oca.sa.gov.au>

Local government areas:

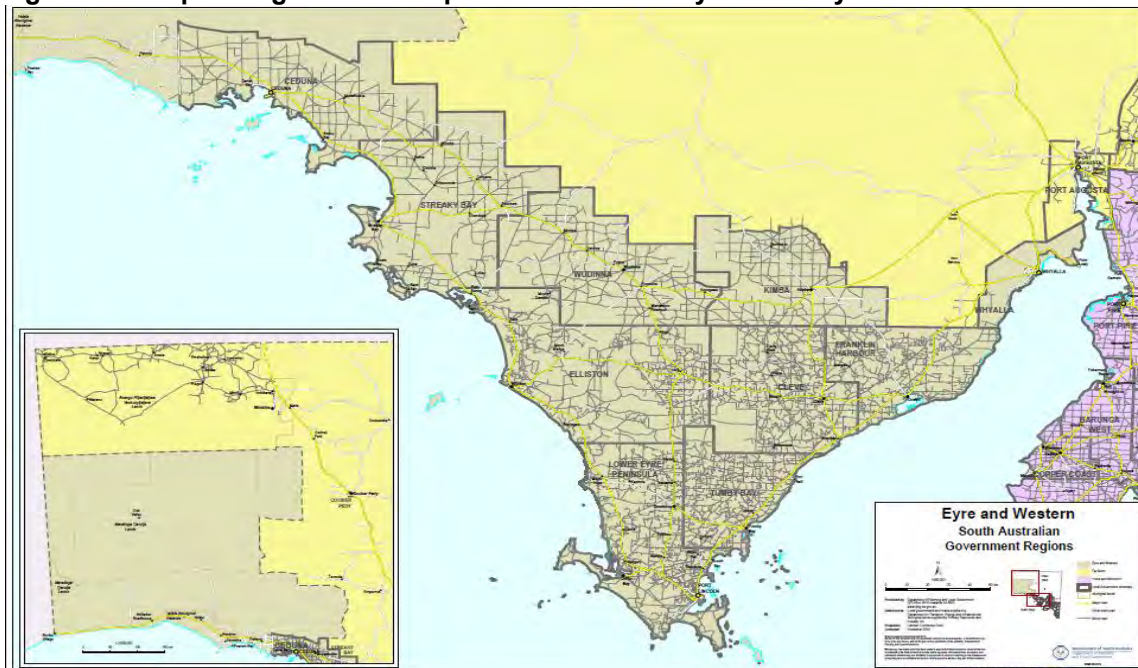
- Ceduna
- Cleve
- Elliston
- Franklin Harbour
- Kimba
- Lower Eyre Peninsula
- Port Lincoln
- Streaky Bay
- Tumby Bay
- Whyalla
- Wudinna

Unincorporated areas:

- Unincorporated West Coast

Aboriginal communities:

- Maralinga Tjarutja Lands
- Yalata Aboriginal Reserve

Figure 18: Map of Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula

Source: Department of Planning and Local Government of South Australia.

Facts about the region

- Characterised by a Mediterranean climate, summers are warm and dry and winters cool and wet.
- The estimated resident population of the region is 58,707 persons, excluding unincorporated West Coast⁴⁴ (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate).
- Approximately 65 per cent of residents live in the two Provincial Cities of Whyalla and Port Lincoln.
- Economic activity is primarily based on agriculture, aquaculture and primary products processing and in Whyalla and surrounds, mining and steel making.
- Emerging industries include tourism, minerals exploration/processing, defence and renewable energy.
- Whyalla is the region's largest population centre with 23,214 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate) specialising in the manufacture of steel. The city has a major deep water port and is a commercial, educational and retail centre.
- Port Lincoln is the second largest city in the RDAWEP region with 14,726 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate) major industries are aquaculture, agriculture and tourism, the city has a deepwater port used principally for loading grain.

Box 1: Additional information about Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula

- Employment on the Eyre Peninsula is concentrated in agriculture and fishing. Whyalla remains a major manufacturing centre.
- Mineral exploration and subsequent discovery of resources such as iron ore offers the opportunity to diversify the region, providing new jobs directly in the construction and operation of mines and indirect jobs in sectors that support the operation of each mine such as transportation.
- A workforce study indicates many of the jobs created in the resources sector on the Eyre Peninsula will require formal qualifications, opportunities for workers without qualifications or experience will be more limited.
- High staff turnover in the mining industry will create additional replacement demand over the next decade.
- Major centres Whyalla and Ceduna are disadvantaged relative to the rest of the state based on SEIFA scores. Both these centres have higher rates of youth unemployment, long-term unemployment and jobless families compared with the State average.

Source: Skills for Jobs, The Training and Skills Commission's five year plan for skills and workforce development, 2011.

Key Issues for the region

Consultation with local governments, industry groups and communities revealed issues of most concern. Together these issues can be grouped under four themes, (A) environment and culture, (B) economic development, (C) population and settlements and (D) infrastructure and service provision.

Underlying each theme are principles and policies (e.g., as in A: Environment and Culture) to help realise the regions vision and full potential. Issues, challenges, opportunities and barriers as highlighted by the RDAWEP Regional Roadmap are grouped under each of the four themes and commentary is drawn from the RDA Roadmap (as in A.1, A.2, B.1 etc).

⁴⁴ Unincorporated West Coast has a population of 496 residents (ABS, 2010).

A. Environment and culture – Principles and policies

- *Recognise and protect the region's environmental assets;*
- *Protect people, property and environment from exposure to hazards;*
- *Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character;*
- *Create the conditions for the region to adapt and become resilient to the impacts of climate change.*

A.1 Climate change – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Warmer sea and air temperatures, drier summers, declining rainfall, rising sea levels and more frequent and prolonged droughts caused by changing climatic conditions may impact on agriculture and aquaculture industries leading to greater variability in year-on-year crop yields.
- Cropping land may be damaged by wind and storm damage due to higher frequency of extreme weather events.
- A potential impact of climate change is that it may reduce the annual average rainfall of the more fertile and productive southern Eyre Peninsula causing greater variability in agriculture and aquaculture production.
- A reduction in annual average rainfall will impact the supply of fresh water supplies such that demand for potable water will outstrip supply in ten years. Alternative potable water sources such as desalination will be required.
- Climate change provides economic opportunities in the form of adaptation, leading to sustainable fishing, aquaculture and farming, greater use of renewable energy and investment in associated infrastructure, biofuel projects, environmental sustainability and new product development.
- Research at University of South Australia's Whyalla campus, Minnipa Agricultural Centre and Port Lincoln's Marine Science Centre is building the capacity of the region to adapt and adjust to climate change, promoting better farming practices and greater sustainability, productivity and profitability.

A.2 Renewable energy – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- The region has the potential to supply 30 per cent of the Federal government's renewable energy target by 2020, providing new jobs and additional investment with surplus energy sold to South Australia and interstate.
- The region receives 300 cloud free days per year and is suitable for large scale solar energy development with plans to construct a solar thermal plant near Whyalla.
- The region is ranked amongst the top 10 locations in the world for wind power generation, two wind farms are operational and there is potential to support additional wind farms.
- Potential exists for the commercial development of energy generation by harnessing wave power; a pilot plant operates near Elliston and will be connected to the grid upon successful testing of its performance (expected deployment by 2011).

A.3 Water – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Limited natural water resources are supplemented by ground water and the Murray River. It is estimated that population growth will cause demand for potable water to exceed supply sometime between 2017 and 2023 (Eyre Peninsula Demand and Water Supply Statement, April 2011), affecting the

region's sustainability unless alternative water is sourced through desalination or other means.

- Over reliance on groundwater basins for potable water combined with low rainfall has overdrawn groundwater resources, leading to rising salinity and limiting the long term sustainability of underground basins for potable drinking water as the population grows.
- Stormwater capture and reuse is being integrated into new sub-divisions to irrigate open spaces and sporting complexes in place of potable water.
- The local community supports the establishment of a desalination plant to produce potable drinking water by 2014. The WEPRDA report that the mining industry cannot access the plant, as the SA Water Master Plan requires miners to provide water for their own needs.
- It is predicted that an additional 30 GL of water will be required for industrial purposes over the next five years to service the mining industry, although this water does not need to be potable.
- BHP's proposed desalination plant at Point Lowly will produce 80 megalitres of industrial quality water above what is needed each day to be made available to other users.
- An alternative option to Point Lowly, is a number of smaller scale desalination plants spread across the region, providing a more localised water supply.

B. Economic development – Principles and policies

- *Protect and strengthen the economic potential of the region's primary production land;*
- *Strengthen local commercial fishing and aquaculture industries;*
- *Reinforce the region as a unique and diverse tourism destination;*
- *Provide and protect well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand;*
- *Ensure that commercial development is well-sited and designed to support town function.*

B.1 Mining – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Mining is an emerging industry. Growth has been driven by record levels of exploration expenditure and subsequent discoveries of heavy mineral sands, uranium, petroleum, coal, zinc, copper, gold, nickel, diamonds and iron ore.
- Jobs have been created in the construction and operation phase of mines, further jobs are expected to be created over the next five years; occupations in greatest demand are tradesmen, labourers and production and transport workers.
- Growth in mining is likely to attract residents seeking employment from other parts of the state.
- Whyalla is ideally situated to be „South Australia's Mining Services Hub“ possessing transport, engineering, business and retail industries to meet the needs of local and remote mineral developments; Whyalla has established an industrial site next to OneSteel's plant to support infrastructure development in the mining industry.
- Mining provides the benefit of diversification of the region's industrial base.
- Insufficient infrastructure hampers the efficient operation of mining activity and ability to export products to market cost effectively.

- Need for greater cooperation between mining companies and state and federal governments for infrastructure development.
- Recommencement of the Spencer Gulf Ferry Service will be an advantage for the booming mining industry reducing transit times for miners and their equipment across the gulf from Yorke Peninsula to Eyre Peninsula.

B.2 Tourism – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Tourism is a growth industry; most visitors are attracted to coastal towns offering nature based experiences.
- The region's 350 tourist operators struggle to make modest profits because of static growth in domestic tourism and competition within the international market caused by the greater choice of tourist experiences.
- The tourism industry faces constraints such as lack of tourist infrastructure (e.g., signs, electricity and information bays), lack of business investment, lack of skills development for owners and employers, seasonal fluctuations in labour demand, labour shortages, difficulties attracting and maintaining a stable workforce (due to low pay and poor working hours i.e., mostly part-time or casual employment) and lack of residents with industry specific training, due to the isolation of the region from training centres.
- Recommencement of the ferry service will improve access to tourist destinations on the Eyre Peninsula and potentially encourage more visitors.
- There is a lack of awareness of Eyre Peninsula attractions.
- Many visitors are low-yield, travelling by caravan or motor-home spending little on accommodation, food or tours, minimising their economic impact, high-yield visitors such as Baby-Boomers form a small fraction of tourist numbers and there is little investment to target this group.
- The high Australian dollar further increases competitive pressures, as overseas travel gets cheaper, reducing the cost of airfares and overseas accommodation.

B.3 Agriculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Agriculture is a growth industry the success of which is based on its ability to market clean and green products.
- Agricultural activity comprises sheep rearing and grain farming, especially, wheat, barley and legumes much of which is exported abroad to growing overseas markets in Japan, China, South Eastern Asia and the Middle East.
- Current challenges are susceptibility to the unpredictable nature of international commodity markets, the high Australian dollar, climate change, drought, increasing input costs, new technology, natural resource management pressures, market deregulation and changing consumer preferences.
- Reliance on agriculture makes the region vulnerable to seasonal and environmental factors. Reduced rainfall and increased temperatures will impact the grain industry.

B.4 Aquaculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- WEPRDA produces nearly all of Australia's Southern Blue Fin tuna, other seafood include, mussels, abalone, oysters, sardines, prawns and lobsters.
- The region is recognised around the world as a leader in best fishing practices and standards, producing high quality seafoods in a sustainable manner.
- Strong global demand will lead to favourable price increases in seafood over the long term and rising exports from the region
- Port Lincoln and Thevenard are the only unloading facilities for the fishing industry on the Eyre Peninsula capable of handling large commercial fishing vessels; this causes congestion with bulk cargo vessels because they are not set up to handle commercial fishing trawlers.
- Current challenges include the high Australian dollar (most seafood is exported), rising fuel costs, climate change, the adoption of new marketing standards in fish labelling and retailing, rising fuel prices, fluctuating interest rates and increasing wage rates.
- Port Lincoln's deep water port is congested with grain, minerals and other product handling restricting the access of aquaculture exporters to the wharf. Further growth of the mining industry over the next ten years will exacerbate the problem if other port facilities do not become available (e.g., Port Spencer).
- The establishment of a marine park around the Eyre Peninsula's coastline would have a detrimental impact on the aquaculture industry limiting the catch allowed to be taken.

C. Population and settlements – Principles and policies

- *Plan and manage township growth, and develop Structure Plans for key growth centres;*
- *Design towns to be sustainable and provide safe, healthy, accessible and appealing environments;*
- *Provide residential land for a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet current and future needs.*

C.1 Population – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Population of the region has grown at a slower rate than South Australia.
- Growth of the mining industry is drawing people to Ceduna and Whyalla while seaside towns are growing due to the influx of people looking for a seaside lifestyle.
- Some (not all) inland towns have experienced population loss; these towns are important centres supporting the local sheep and wheat farming communities.
- The establishment of fewer/larger farms, poor seasonal conditions, historical movement of 15 to 24 year olds to larger metropolitan and provincial cities and the centralisation of services to larger towns has led to declining populations of smaller towns i.e., those with less than 1,000 people.
- RDAWEP expects regional population to grow at a faster rate than predicted by the Department of Planning and Local Government with future demand for residential housing outstripping supply.
- Over the past ten years Whyalla's population has grown as the city becomes a regional hub for mining and educational services.
- Growth of the mining industry is expected to increase school enrolments in Cowell, Lock, Ceduna, Kimba, Tumby Bay and Wudinna as families relocate to these towns.

- It is anticipated that over the next 30 years there will be an undersupply of public and private housing, new housing developments will be needed in the towns of Whyalla, Ceduna, Port Lincoln and Cowell which is expecting an influx of new residents.
- Population growth combined with a housing shortage is expected to lead to an appreciation of house prices in regional centres.

C.2 Education, skills and unemployment – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The overall unemployment rate in RDAWEP is below the state average in 2010 and 2011.
- Limited education and lack of skills means a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians are long term unemployed compared with non-Indigenous.
- Lower high school retention rates compared with the state contributes to an overall level of education and qualifications which is below the state average especially amongst the Indigenous community.
- The region is above the state average for certificate level qualifications but below the state average for bachelor degrees and post-graduate degrees.

D. Infrastructure and services provision – Principles and policies

- *Protect and build on the region's strategic infrastructure.*

D.1 Infrastructure – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The region has well developed core infrastructure in major cities but lacks road, rail, energy, port and water infrastructure in remote areas (where many mines are located) due to the region's large geographical size, sparse population, remoteness from Adelaide and small rate-payer base.
- Demand for infrastructure development is driven by the mining industry requiring significant investment in road, rail, energy and water infrastructure as well as in storage and bulk handling facilities at the regions ports.
- Limited natural water resources require investment in desalination infrastructure by mining companies to provide water for mineral processing.
- Lack of electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity impedes further development of renewable energy generation projects.
- There is a need for new rail corridors leading to specific port facilities (Port Spencer, Whyalla Port and Port Bonython) capable of handling cape size ships.
- Airport facilities at Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Whyalla need upgrading to accommodate fly-in fly-out mining operations and increased tourist numbers.
- Increased freight movements of minerals and agricultural products have caused roads to deteriorate; local government is unable to cover the cost of maintenance and needs state and federal government financial support.

Major projects

The following section contains a list of major projects in the RDAWEP region which have been approved, are in progress or are under consideration as outlined in the South Australian government's Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Whyalla

Project title: Whyalla hospital redevelopment and Regional Cancer Centre

Organisation: SA Health

Project details: Refurbishment of acute services facilities, including mental health, rehabilitation and palliative care services and integration of day surgery into operating theatres. Existing cancer treatment facilities will be upgraded and improved with new equipment.

Project cost: \$69.3 million

Estimated completion date: August 2013

Project title: Country Community Rehabilitation Centres

Organisation: SA Health

Project details: Construction of two ten bed facilities at Whyalla and Mount Gambier for people suffering from mental illness.

Project cost: \$7.3 million

Estimated completion date: June 2013

Status: 2011-12 Capital Investment Statement

Project title: Project Opal

Organisation: OneSteel Ltd

Project details: This project consists of two elements
 1. Whyalla port facilities expanded to double loading capacity from 6.5 – 7.0 million tonnes per annum to 12 million tonnes per annum costing \$200 million.
 2. Acquisition of Peculiar Knob high-grade DSO Hematite project and Buzzard and Tui DSO hematite and magnetite deposits at Hawks Nest from WPG Resources for \$346 million. In addition further expenditure of \$50 million will fund infrastructure development at Peculiar Knob.

Project cost: \$596 million

Estimated completion date: Fourth quarter of 2012

Status: Subject to WPG shareholder approval

Project title: Samphire Uranium Project (previously Mullaquana)

Organisation: Samphire Uranium Pty Ltd

Project details: Located 20km south of Whyalla the Samphire project has an inferred resource of 19,000 tonnes of uranium oxide. Exploration drilling underway is likely to increase the size the estimate.

Project cost: Undisclosed

Estimated completion date: Production expected to begin in 2013

Status: Field trials scheduled leading into feasibility.

Project title: Whyalla Terminal Replacement
Organisation: ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details: This project would replace the Whyalla Terminal substation with the installation of new transformers and the reconfiguration of the surrounding electricity transmission network.
Project cost: \$55 million
Estimated completion date: June 2013
Status: Pending

Project title: Ocean Air Estate
Organisation: Martin Wood Developments
Project details: This development will consist of 1,500 allotments, currently 220 homes have been built, 350 blocks sold and a 185 unit retirement village has been approved.
Project cost: \$40 million
Estimated completion date: Stages 1 - 7 are complete, balance completed in May 2013
Status: In progress

Project title: Whyalla Rare Earths Complex
Organisation: Arafura Resources Limited
Project details: Arafura will construct a rare earths processing plant in Whyalla linked by rail to Nolans Bore rare earths mine. Once operational the plant will supply ten per cent of the world's demand for rare earth elements.
Project cost: \$1 billion
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: Bankable feasibility study in progress

Project title: Advanced Energy Storage Technology
Organisation: Wizard Power
Project details: Construction of an array of Big Dish solar concentrators with a surface area of 500sqm each built near Whyalla. The plant is for demonstration purposes and houses an R&D facility.
Project cost: \$17 million
Estimated completion date: June 2014
Status: In progress

Ceduna

Project title: Ceduna Health Service Redevelopment
Organisation: Department of Health
Project details: Construction of new acute hospital and redevelopment of the existing hospital to provide diagnostic, treatment and primary health care facilities.
Project cost: \$36 million.
Estimated completion date: June 2012
Status: Included in 2010/11 State Budget Capital Investment Statement

Project title: Exploration for Petroleum Permits 37, 38, 39 and 40
Organisation: BP exploration (Alpha) Ltd
Project details: Four exploration permits have been awarded to BP to conduct 3D seismic testing off the coast of South Australia approximately 300km southwest of Ceduna.
Project cost: \$80 million
Estimated completion date: 2012 (for seismic survey)
Status: In progress

Wudinna

Project title: Wudinna transformer replacement
Organisation: ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details: Expansion of the Wudinna substation and installation of a second transformer. Secondary systems with the provision for remote control, data collection and national grid metering will also be installed.
Project cost: \$15 million
Estimated completion date: June 2012
Status: In progress

Port Lincoln

Project title: Port Lincoln Hospital Redevelopment
Organisation: SA Health
Project details: Expansion of acute services, redevelopment of operating theatres and same-day patient unit and integrated primary health care facilities.
Project cost: \$39.2 million
Estimated completion date: June 2016
Status: 2011-12 Capital Investment Statement

Eyre Peninsula

Project title: Hematite Extension Project (HEP)
Organisation: OneSteel Ltd
Project details: Expansion of existing Middleback Ranges mine to sustain export sales of six million tonnes of hematite ore for at least the next ten years.
Project cost: \$390 million
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: In progress

Project title: Poochera Kaolin Mine
Organisation: Minotaur Exploration Limited
Project details: A high-quality kaolin mining and beneficiation project. Phase one of the project involved testing and construction of a pilot plant, next phase is mining feasibility and product demonstration plant.
Project cost: \$5 million
Estimated completion date: December 2012
Status: Under consideration

Project title:	Cultana 275/132 kV Augmentation
Organisation:	ElectraNet Pty Ltd.
Project details:	Augmentation of high voltage substation at Cultana to maintain the quality, reliability and security of electricity supply on the Eyre Peninsula.
Project cost:	\$71 million
Estimated completion date:	October 2014
Status:	Pending
Project title:	Eyre Peninsula Reinforcement
Organisation:	ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details:	Proposal by ElectraNet Pty Ltd to address limitations in the current network by considering a number of network development and non-network options including extending the capacity of the current network to the lower and central parts of Eyre Peninsula.
Project cost:	\$200 million - \$1 billion
Estimated completion date:	2015 – 2018 (staged)
Status:	Under consideration
Project title:	Wilchery Hill Iron Ore Project
Organisation:	IronClad Mining Limited
Project details:	Located 40km North of Kimba a Mining Lease Proposal has been lodged with the intent to commence production by early 2012.
Project cost:	\$30 million
Estimated completion date:	March 2012
Status:	In progress
Project title:	Wilgerup
Organisation:	Centrex Metals Ltd.
Project details:	Discovery of a 12.2 million tonne iron ore deposit (hematite) near Wilgerup on the central Eyre Peninsula has attracted substantial investment from Chinese partners. In October 2009 approval was given to modify infrastructure at Port Lincoln for the export of ore and in mid 2011 the mine received Australian government approval with exports to begin in late 2014 early 2015.
Project cost:	\$65 million
Estimated completion date:	2015
Status:	approved
Project title:	Wave Energy Converter Pilot Plant Project
Organisation:	Wave Rider Energy Pty Ltd
Project details:	Construction is nearly complete of a pilot plant harnessing wave energy, located on Lock Wells Beach near Elliston. The pilot plant will operate for 18 months to gather data and examine the long-term feasibility of the technology as an energy source.
Project cost:	\$5 million
Estimated completion date:	November 2011
Status:	Pending

Project title:	Eyre Iron Joint Venture
Organisation:	One or two magnetite mines and concentration plants situated between Port Lincoln and Port Neill on the Eyre Peninsula. Studies into mining, concentrating and plant design and services have also been carried out.
Project cost:	\$1 billion (approximately)
Estimated completion date:	2014/15
Status:	Development
Project title:	Elliston Wind Farm – Tungketta Hill
Organisation:	Ausker Energies Pty Ltd
Project details:	A 16MW wind farm development with a view to further upgrades to a maximum capacity of 320MW. First stage is estimated at \$40 million; second stage \$130 million and final stage \$480 million.
Project cost:	\$650 million
Estimated completion date:	December 2012
Status:	approved
Project title:	Port Spencer
Organisation:	Centrex Metals Limited
Project details:	Centrex has proposed to develop a port at Port Spencer near Tumby Bay, capable of handling cape size vessels. The project consists of four stages, the first stage will allow for the direct shipping of ore and grain and the second stage for the export of magnetite.
Project cost:	\$150 million - \$200 million
Estimated completion date:	2015
Status:	Major project status granted
Project title:	Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP)
Organisation:	Iron Road Limited
Project details:	Iron Road is considering constructing an iron ore mine on the Eyre Peninsula near Wudinna, prefeasibility study has been completed and preparation work for a Definitive Feasibility Study is underway.
Project cost:	\$2.6 billion
Estimated completion date:	2015
Status:	In progress
Project title:	Gum Flat Iron Ore Project
Organisation:	Lincoln Minerals Limited
Project details:	Development of an iron ore mine at Gum Flat 20km west of Port Lincoln extracting 0.5 million tonnes of hematite-goethite DSO from an open-cut pit. Ore would be transported by road in containers and loaded onto ships for export.
Project cost:	\$30 million (including removal of overburden)
Estimated completion date:	June 2012
Status:	In progress

Project title: Lucky Bay Bulk Shipping Port
Organisation: Sea Transport Corporation
Project details: Development of existing harbour and shallow draft transshipment solution for junior iron ore miners in the area at Lucky Bay near Cowell on the Eyre Peninsula, 200km northwest of Adelaide. Construction will include an undercover floating harbour.

Project cost: \$3 million - \$5 million
Estimated completion date: 2012
Status: Development Application being developed

Project title: Port (Spencer Gulf)
Organisation: Flinders Ports
Project details: Proposed construction of a new state-of-the-art port facility located at Port Bonython. The development will handle cape sized vessels capable of loading approximately 180,000 tonnes of cargo. Once fully developed to port will handle 50 million tonnes of bulk cargo per annum.

Project cost: \$600 million
Estimated completion date: Late 2015
Status: Awaiting approvals

Table 1: South Australian local government capital expenditure for 2011/12

Council	Local government expenditure 2011/12 (\$)
City of Whyalla	10,377,000
Ceduna	10,535,000
City of Port Lincoln	2,882,000
Streaky Bay	5,742,000
Wudinna	801,020
Cleve	2,318,000
Franklin Harbour	74,794
Elliston	2,973,000
Kimba	1,209,000
Tumby Bay	5,187,000
Lower Eyre Peninsula	18,421,000

Source: South Australian Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Appendix A

Selected Statistics: Labour market outcomes

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula

Population	RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula	% of State Total	South Australia
Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2010	59,216	3.6%	1,644,582
Net Change in ERP 2009 to 2010	522	-	20,229
Rate of Population Change (%)	0.9%	-	1.3%
% of Total Population			
Youth (15-24)	7,251	12.2%	13.6%
Mature (45-64)	15,540	26.2%	26.3%
Aboriginal – Census 2006	2,784	5.1%	1.7%
People with a disability (15-64) – Census 2006	1,024	2.9%	2.7%
Labour Force (Dept of Education & Workplace Relations: March 2011)			
Total Employed	27,108	-	812,100
Total Unemployed	1,045	-	47,200
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	-	5.5%
Participation Rate (June 2010)	62.3%	-	62.7%
% of Total Employment			
Industry Employment (Census 2006)			
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	3,905	16.3%	4.7%
Retail Trade	3,401	14.2%	14.7%
Manufacturing	2,827	11.8%	13.2%
Health and Community Services	2,623	10.9%	12.7%
% of Total Population (15 years and older)			
Qualifications (Census 2006)			
Degree or higher	2,999	12.3%	13.0%
Diploma	1,840	7.5%	6.5%
Certificate Level III or IV	6,979	28.6%	14.3%
% of State Total			
Training (NCVER 2009)			
VET Students	5,965	4.9%	121,851
Students reporting Disability	8.4%	-	6.2%
Aboriginal Students	11.7%	-	3.6%
Commencing Apprentices and Trainees (2008)	965	4.4%	21,960

Source: data extracted from Workforce Wizard, DFEEST, November 2011

Regional Development Australia Far North

Overview

Geography

- RDA Far North is the largest region covering an area of 696,986 square kilometres or 71 per cent of the State's land mass.

Population

- As at 30th June 2010 the region had a population of 28,726 persons accounting for 1.5 per cent of the State's population. Population growth due to expansion of Roxby Downs is projected to exceed the State average. The Indigenous population was 4,700 persons or 16.7 per cent of the region's population.
- Approximately one fifth of South Australia's Indigenous population live in the Far North.

Economy and Labour force

- The region contributed \$2,495 million to the State economy in 2006/07 or 3.7 per cent of gross state product.
- The three largest employing industries in the Far North region for 2006/07 were mining (19.6 per cent), health and community services (10.9 per cent) and retail trade (10.6 per cent), compared with the State where retail trade (14.9 per cent), manufacturing (13.4 per cent) and health and community services (13.1 per cent) are the three largest employing industries.
- As at June 2011 there were 11,416 employed persons in the region.
- The Far North has an unemployment rate of 7.0 per cent in June 2011, above the State average rate of 5.5 per cent.
- Full-time participation in secondary school was 19 percentage points below the State average although the region has a much higher participation rate in VET courses.

Opportunities for growth

- Mining will spur economic growth in the region. The region contains 72 per cent of South Australia's mineral resources projects; as of August 2011 there were a total of 46 mineral projects in South Australia, seventeen approved and twenty nine developing projects; of the seventeen approved projects fourteen are located in the Far North region and of the twenty nine developing projects nineteen are located in the Far North region.
- The proposed BHP expansion of Olympic Dam will create the world's largest open pit mine, creating 6,000 jobs during construction and 4,000 permanent jobs in the expanded operation.
- The region is home to other major mining companies such as OZ Minerals (Prominent Hill), Santos (Cooper Basin) and Uranium One (Honeymoon Project).
- The demand for further investment and development of ports, road, rail, energy and water infrastructure will require greater cooperation between mining companies and government for infrastructure sharing and greater investment in public infrastructure.

Education and Skills

- Schools in the Far North region, in terms of NAPLAN results and secondary school completion rates are well below the State average and ultimately it is investment in education and social capital that is the engine of growth. Far greater attention to early childhood learning, primary and secondary school assistance, completion and performance is required to ensure gradual and consistent improvement in literacy, numeracy and post-secondary studies. The average reading result for the Far North (NAPLAN) in year 3 was 81.1 per cent relative to State average (set to 100) and by year 7 had improved to 88.6 per cent. Similar comparisons for spelling and numeracy were evident across the region.

Indicators¹

Geography and Population

	RDA Far North	South Australia
Geography		
Land area - square kilometres (includes unincorporated areas)	696,986	985,292
Land area as a percentage of the state - per cent	70.7	100
Area of agricultural land (2006) - hectares '000	41,783	55,408
Demographics		
Total population (2010) - all persons (includes unincorporated areas)	28,726	1,640,638
Males (2010) - all males	15,315	810,264
Females (2010) - all females	13,411	830,374
Change in population (2001-2010) - per cent change	4.6	9.0
Change in population (2001-2005) - per cent change	0.9	2.8
Change in population (2005-2010) - per cent change	3.7	6.0
Population as a percentage of state population (2010) - per cent	1.5	100.0
Population density (2010) - persons/square kilometre	0.04	1.67
Birth rate (2010) - babies born per 1,000 people	15.8	12.2
Death rate (2010) - deaths per 1,000 people	6.8	7.9
Population projections (Dept of Planning and Local Government)		
2016	31,778	1,770,644
2021	33,395	1,856,435
2026	34,910	1,935,161
Projected change in population from 2011 to 2026 - per cent	16.4	16.1
CAGR for region, 2011-2026	1.0	1.0
Age profile (2010)		
0-14 years	21.8	17.8
15-24 years	12.9	13.6
25-34 years	14.4	13.0
35-44 years	14.1	13.6
45-54 years	14.3	14.0
55-64 years	10.9	12.3
65-74 years	7.0	8.0
75-84 years	3.5	5.3
85 years and over	1.1	2.3
Indigenous population (2006) - all persons	4,666	24,823
Indigenous population as a percentage of total population (2006) - per cent	16.7	1.6

Note: ¹ All indicators exclude unincorporated areas of South Australia unless otherwise indicated.

Economy 2006/07

	Gross value ¹ added (\$m)		Gross value added - per cent of total gross regional product		Employment by industry - per cent of total employment	
	RDA FN	South Australia	RDA FN	South Australia	RDA FN	South Australia
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	46	2,603	1.8	3.8	3.7	4.9
Mining	1,131	2,224	45.3	3.3	19.6	0.9
Manufacturing	80	8,815	3.2	12.9	4.6	13.4
Electricity, gas and water	183	1,884	7.3	2.8	3.6	0.9
Building and construction	149	4,432	6.0	6.5	8.6	6.6
Wholesale trade	29	2,765	1.2	4.0	1.9	4.4
Retail trade	65	3,829	2.6	5.6	10.6	14.9
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	53	1,476	2.1	2.2	6.4	4.4
Transport and storage	78	3,270	3.1	4.8	3.8	3.9
Communication services	11	1,467	0.4	2.1	0.5	1.3
Finance and insurance	21	3,993	0.8	5.8	0.9	3.9
Ownership of dwellings	139	6,074	5.6	8.9	0.0	0.0
Property and business services	79	6,533	3.2	9.6	5.7	9.3
Public administration and defence	49	2,417	2.0	3.5	6.7	5.4
Education	68	3,144	2.7	4.6	7.3	7.6
Health and community services	90	4,974	3.6	7.3	10.9	13.1
Cultural and recreational services	11	1,039	0.4	1.5	1.0	1.8
Personal services	49	1,547	2.0	2.3	4.2	3.9
Total²	2,495	68,327	100	100	100.0	100.0

Note: ¹ The sum of gross value added across all industries plus taxes less subsidies on products equals gross regional/state product at purchasers prices. Gross value added for each region has been estimated by EconSearch using input-output (I-O) models. For additional information on gross value added and definitions of key terms, see ABS, Australian National Accounts, Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2000, Cat. No. 5216.0.

² Total does not include net taxes (i.e., taxes less subsidies on products and production) paid by households and other components of final demand. Therefore totals do not sum to 100 per cent.

Supportive Statistics

	RDA Far North	South Australia
Trade¹		
Exports (2006/07) - \$ billions	2.8	27.4
Imports, (2006/07) - \$ billions	2.4	30.8
Labour force (includes unincorporated areas)		
Labour force (June 2011)	14,246	861,537
Total employed (June 2011)	13,287	814,507
Total unemployed (June 2011)	959	47,030
Participation rate (2009) (excludes unincorporated areas)	64.7	63.1
Unemployment rate (June 2011) - per cent	6.7	5.5
Number of job service/disability employment service providers	15	450
Education		
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16 (2006) - per cent	59.7	78.4
Participation in VET courses (2009) - per 1,000 persons	112.7	73.5

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Far North	South Australia
NAPLAN results² (2011) – average score		
Year 3		
Reading	326	402
Spelling	311	392
Numeracy	321	379
Year 5		
Reading	392	478
Spelling	413	474
Numeracy	405	471
Year 7		
Reading	473	534
Spelling	465	533
Numeracy	466	535
Health (Selected LGAs)		
Low birth weight babies (2006 to 2008) - as a percentage of total births	8.6	6.8
Mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy (2006 to 2008) - per cent	36.6	16.7
Children fully immunised at 12 to less than 15 months of age (2008) - per cent	84.6	91.8
Obese persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	21.2	17.4
Overweight (not obese) persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	30.0	29.4
Housing characteristics		
Median house price (September quarter 2011) – Port Augusta - \$	212,000	360,000
Dwelling fully owned (2006) – per cent	27.7	33.7
Dwelling being purchased (2006) – per cent	20.8	33.5
Dwelling being rented (2006) – per cent	37.0	25.6
Rent assistance from Centrelink (March Quarter 2011) - per cent of population	4.5	6.5
Average residential valuation (2010) - \$	208,399	344,446
Average rates per residential property (2010) - \$	1,381	1,065
Income (averages include unincorporated areas)		
Average wage and salary income (2009) - \$	50,137	41,896
Average own unincorporated business income (2009) - \$	13,795	19,659
Average investment income ⁴ (2009) - \$	2,191	7,651
Average superannuation and annuity income (2009) - \$	21,522	24,793
Income support (Selected LGAs)		
Age pension recipients (2009) - per cent	79.9	77.5
Disability support recipients (2009) - per cent	7.7	7.1
Single parent payment recipients (2009) - per cent	7.6	5.8
Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	9.5	4.5
Long-term unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	7.5	3.2
Youth Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	15.6	6.1
Low income and welfare dependant families with children (2009) - per cent	15.0	9.5
Children in low income families (2009) - per cent	27.9	22.0
Health care card holders (2009) - per cent	11.7	8.8
Pensioner concession card holders (2009) - per cent	22.1	23.6
Total Centrelink card holders (2009) - per cent	27.7	26.8

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Far North	South Australia
Tourism⁵		
Day visitors (2011)		
Number of domestic day trips – (,000)	453	10,472
Total expenditure by day trippers ⁶ – \$m	51	944
Average expenditure by day trippers ⁶ – \$	113	90
Number of overnight visitors (2011)		
Intrastate – (,000)	347	3,150
Interstate – (,000)	190	2,167
Domestic – (,000)	537	5,315
International – (,000)	44	530
Total – (,000)	581	5,845
Number of nights stayed (2011)		
Intrastate – (,000)	1,093	9,473
Interstate – (,000)	839	8,669
Domestic – (,000)	1,932	18,142
International – (,000)	228	8,454
Total – (,000)	2,160	26,596
Expenditure by overnight tourists		
Total domestic overnight expenditure ⁶ (2011) - \$m	166	2,922
Average expenditure by domestic overnight visitor ⁶ (2011) - \$	309	602
Characteristics of tourist establishments⁷ (2011)		
Establishments (no.)	31	266
Rooms (no.)	1,212	12,652
Bed spaces (no.)	3,478	34,583
Persons employed (no.)	448	7,138
Occupancy rate (per cent)	60.2	62.4
Environmental		
Greenhouse gas emissions (2005/06) - tonnes per person	199.9	20.0
Airports		
Passengers per annum (2010/11)	94,500	7,756,574
CAGR of passenger numbers (2000/01 – 2010/11)	10.9	5.1
Gambling		
No. of electronic gaming machines (2009/10)	415	12,684
NGR (2009/10) - \$/adult	830	571
Taxes (2009/10) - \$/adult	270	222
No. of EGM's per 1,000 adults (2009/10)	22.1	9.9

- Note:**
- ¹ The value of exports and imports at the regional level includes intrastate, interstate and international trade.
 - ² NAPLAN scores for the Far North region are based on a selection of DECS primary schools in Port Augusta, Woomera, Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy. NAPLAN results are reported using a common scale ranging from 0 to 1000 for years 3, 5, 7 and 9, the scale is divided into ten bands ranging from band one (lowest achievement) to band 10 (highest achievement) as students progress to higher year levels the national minimum standard band level increases reflecting the greater complexity of skills assessed. For more information on interpreting NAPLAN results see www.naplan.edu.au
 - ³ Chronic disease and risk factor estimates not produced for the remote areas of APY Lands and Coober Pedy, estimates of obese and overweight persons for other LGAs are based on synthetic predictions using 2001 NHS data.
 - ⁴ Investment income includes: interest from financial institutions, net rent and dividends or distributions (including imputation credits) from an Australian company, corporate unit trust or public trading trust and distributions from trusts.
 - ⁵ Tourism data on day visits, overnight visits, number of nights stayed, expenditure and characteristics of establishments is based on regional boundaries according to the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and these differ slightly from Regional Development Australia boundaries (see regional and state profiles at <http://www.tourism.sa.gov.au> for maps of regions according to the SATC).
 - ⁶ Excludes Outback SA, not published due to reliability concerns.
 - ⁷ Accommodation includes hotels, motels and guest houses and serviced apartments with 5 or more rooms or units; holiday flats, units and houses of letting entities with 15 or more rooms or units; caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites and visitor hostels with 25 or more bed spaces. The breakdown of tourist establishments by type of accommodation e.g., hotels, motels, guest houses, bed and breakfast etc. is not available.

Summary graphs – businesses and employment by occupation

Figures 1 through 4 show data on the number of businesses by industry sector, number of businesses by employee ranges, number of businesses by turnover range and top five occupations by persons employed relative to South Australia.

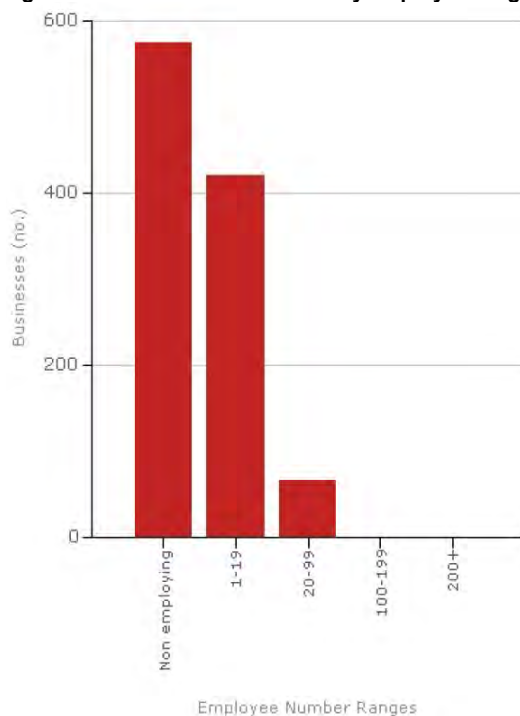
Figure 1: Number of businesses by industry – RDA Far North, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, ABS Cat. No.1292.0. Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Far North EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by industry (boundaries for the Far North state government region correspond with Regional Development Australia Far North boundaries).

Source: EasyData, (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian businesses, including entries and exits, June 2003 to June 2007).

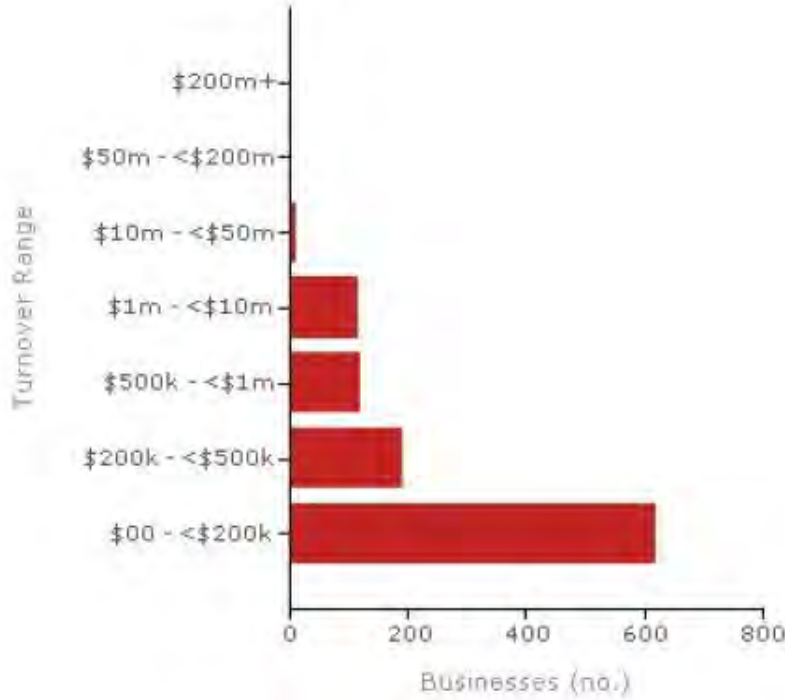
Figure 2: Number of businesses by employee ranges – RDA Far North, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Far North EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by employee ranges (boundaries for the Far North state government region correspond with Regional Development Australia Far North boundaries).

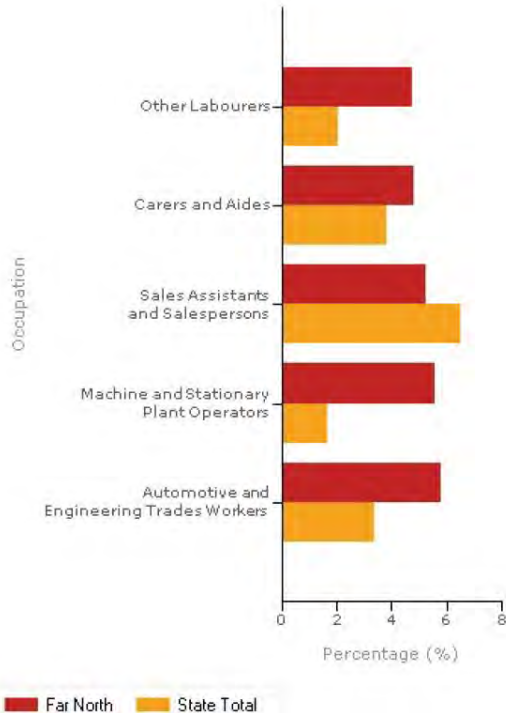
Source: EasyData, (ABS, Cat. No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, June 2003 to June 2007).

Figure 3: Number of businesses by turnover range – RDA Far North, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Far North EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding the number of businesses by turnover range (boundaries for the Far North state government region correspond with Regional Development Australia Far North boundaries).
Source: EasyData, (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, June 2003 to June 2007).

Figure 4: Persons employed by Occupation (top 5) – RDA Far North, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (ANZSCO) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1220.0 Presented at the Sub-Major Group (or 2-digit) level. Applicable to employed persons only.
Source: EasyData (ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006).

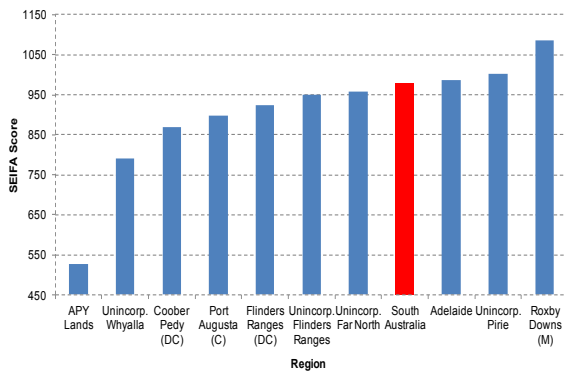
Indicators for local government areas

Figures 5 through 16 show selected indicators for Regional Development Australian Far North (RDAFN) local government areas taken from the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) InstantAtlas. For comparison South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide are included in each graph. Brief commentary is provided of key trends or stand out characteristics in the data.

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY Lands) is ranked lowest in terms of Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) scoring 527; compared with the South Australian average (979) and metropolitan Adelaide (987). Roxby Downs is ranked highest with a SEIFA score of 1,085 due to its high income, low unemployment and socio-economic advantage (refer to Figure 5).

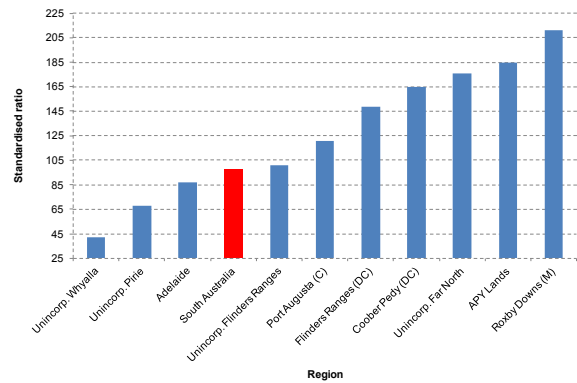
Based on a standardised ratio participation in VET is highest in Roxby Downs (211) and APY Lands (185), compared with the South Australian average (97) and metropolitan Adelaide (87) refer to Figure 6.

Figure 5: Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 6: Participation in VET Standardised ratio, 2009



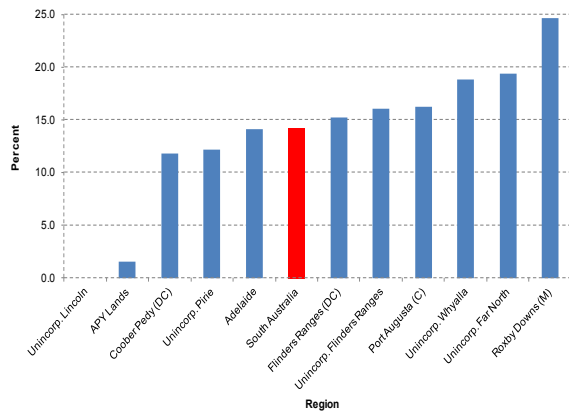
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Technicians and trade workers and machinery operators and drivers comprise 24.6 per cent and 20.5 per cent respectively of Roxby Downs workforce, APY Lands has relatively few qualified workers in these professions (refer to Figures 7 and 8).

Roxby Downs has the largest proportion of employment in mining at 48.6 per cent, mostly at the Olympic Dam mine adjacent the town, this compares with 0.9 per cent across South Australia and 0.6 per cent in metropolitan Adelaide (refer to Figure 9).

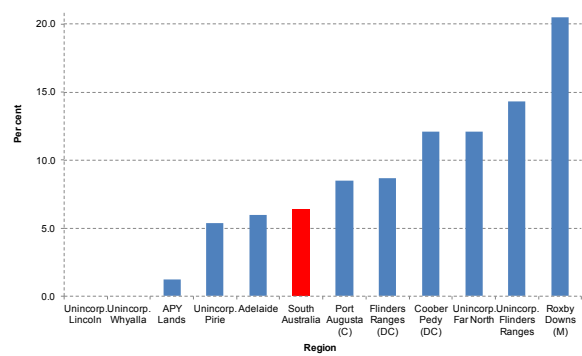
In APY Lands 30.2 per cent of families receive income support followed by Port Augusta (16.8 per cent) and Coober Pedy (16.1 per cent), compared with the South Australian proportion of 9.5 per cent and metropolitan Adelaide proportion of 9.3 per cent. Roxby Downs has the lowest proportion of welfare dependent families (refer to Figure 10).

Figure 7: Occupation – Technicians and trades workers
Per cent of workforce employed as Technicians and trades workers by local government area, 2006



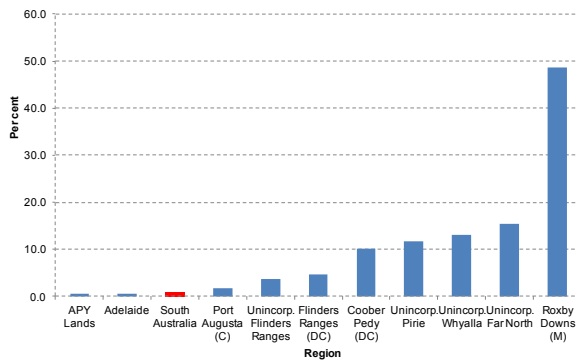
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 8: Occupation – Machinery operators and drivers
Per cent of workforce employed as labourers by local government area, 2006



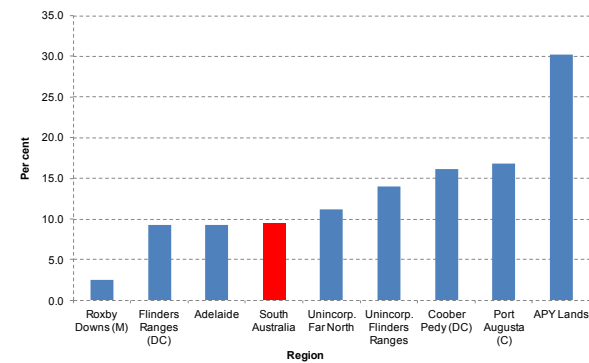
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 9: Industry – Mining
Per cent of workforce employed in Mining, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 10: Income support recipients
Per cent of welfare dependent and other low income families with children, 2009



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

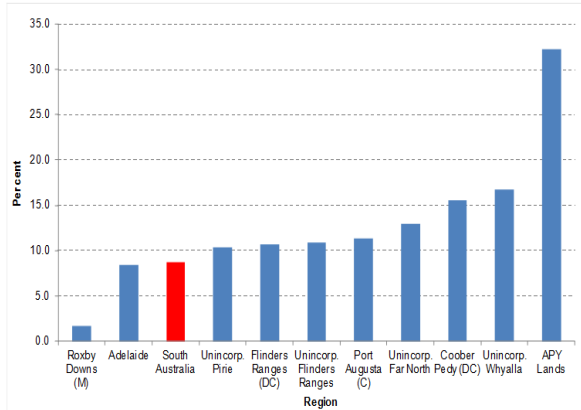
Residents claiming Centrelink benefits such as inter alia the aged pension and allowances are automatically entitled to a health care card. All LGAs and unincorporated areas in RDAFN have a higher proportion of Health Care Card holders than South Australia (8.7 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (8.4 per cent) except in Roxby Downs (refer to Figure 11).

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers form a higher proportion of the workforce across all LGAs and unincorporated areas in RDAFN relative to South Australia (18.2 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (16.4 per cent). In APY Lands unskilled and semi-skilled workers are 42.5 per cent of the workforce due to high levels of disadvantage and low secondary school completion rates (refer to Figure 12).

Wages per head are highest in Roxby Downs \$62,640 due to employment in the mining industry at Olympic dam and surrounding mines (refer to Figure 13).

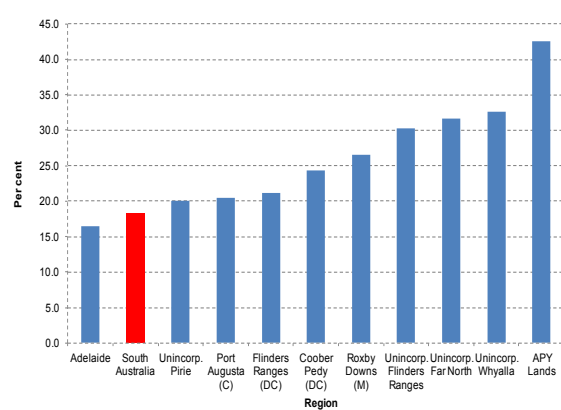
Full-time participation in secondary school at age 16 (at 59.7 per cent) is below the South Australian average (78.3 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (79.6 per cent) for all LGA's and unincorporated areas, except Flinders Ranges District Council where participation is 87.0 per cent, refer to Figure 14.

Figure 11: Health care card holders
Per cent, 2009



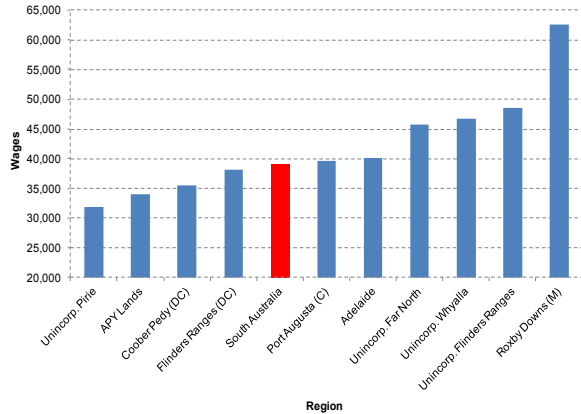
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 12: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers
Per cent, 2006



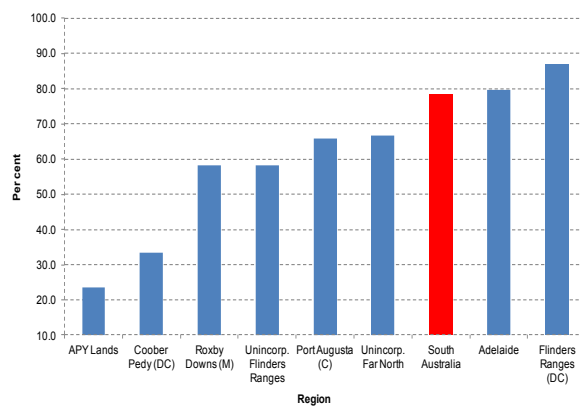
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 13: Wages per capita
Dollars, 2005/06



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

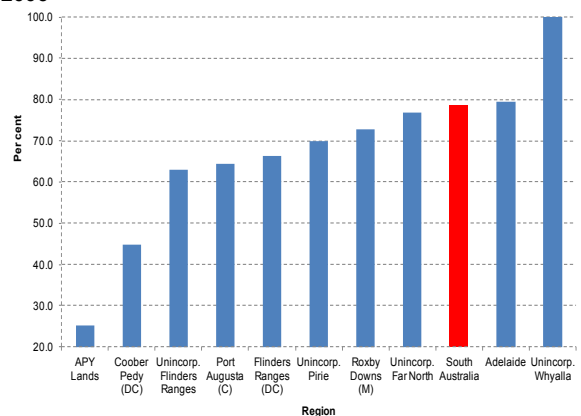
Figure 14: Education
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16, Per cent, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

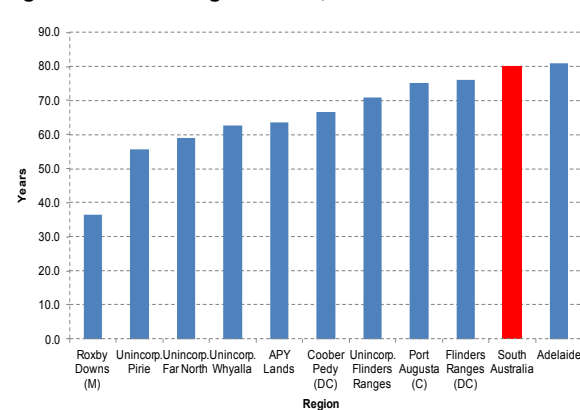
Median age at death is below the South Australian average (80 years) and metropolitan Adelaide (81 years) for all LGAs and unincorporated areas (refer to Figure 16).

Figure 15: Learning or earning
Per cent of 15 to 19 year olds either working or studying, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 16: Median age at death, 2003 to 2007



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

About the Far North regional plan

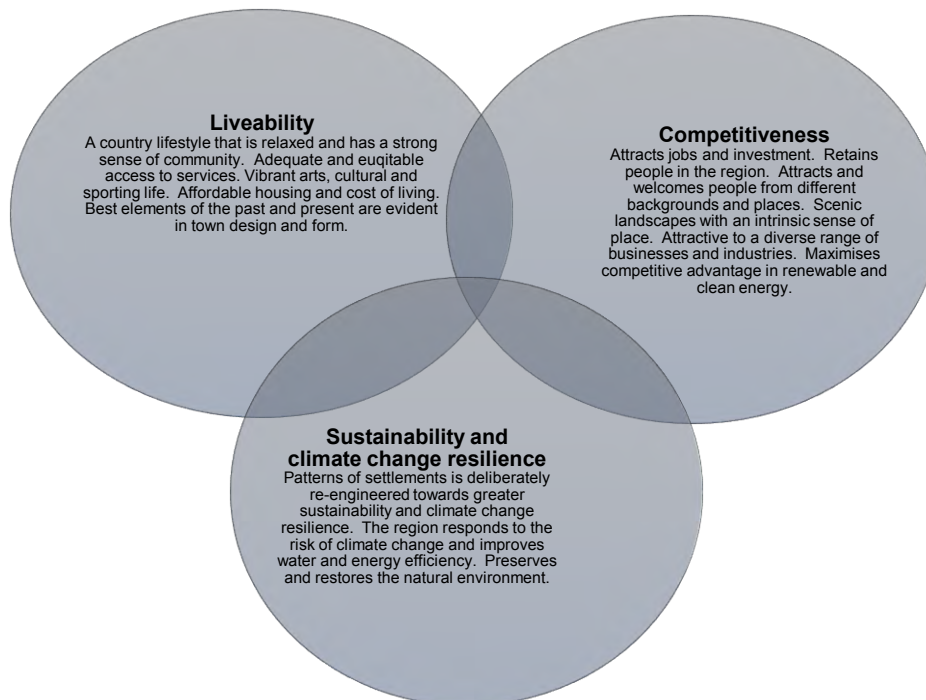
The regional plan sets out the objectives of the region, helping state and local governments to plan for the provision of essential services and infrastructure and guide sustainable economic development and land use in the region.

The plan supports the achievement of a range of economic, social and environmental goals and is closely aligned to South Australia's State Strategic Plan, such that achieving regional goals and targets supports the achievement of state-wide objectives. In addition regional plans tie into state-wide plans for infrastructure, housing, water, natural resources management, waste management and South Australia's economic statement.

The plan has three overlapping objectives representing sustainable community development; these objectives are classified as; social, economic or environmental:

- Social - to maintain and improve liveability;
- Economic - to increase competitiveness; and
- Environmental - to drive sustainability and resilience to climate change.

Figure 17: Objectives of the regional volumes of the South Australian planning strategy



Source: Far North Regional Plan July 2011, Volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy.

Region at a glance⁴⁵

The RDAFN region covers an area of 696,986⁴⁶ square kilometres comprising four local government areas, five unincorporated areas serviced by the Outback Communities Authority (OCA)⁴⁷ and one remote aboriginal area.

⁴⁵ Descriptions and key issues relating to the far North region are sourced from the Regional Roadmap and Strategic Plan for the Far North 2010-2013 and the Far North Region Plan, July 2010.

⁴⁶ The area of the Far North region according to Regional Development Australia's Roadmap is 799,850 square kilometres, this includes Maralinga Tjarutja Lands (102,854 square kilometres). According to RDA boundaries Maralinga Tjarutja Lands are part of RDA Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula and once subtracted the RDA Far North covers a land area of 696,986 square kilometres.

⁴⁷ The Outback Communities Authority acts as a management authority for the outback. For more details about the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) functions and objectives see <http://www.oca.sa.gov.au>

Local government areas

- Coober Pedy
- Flinders Ranges
- Port Augusta
- Roxby Downs

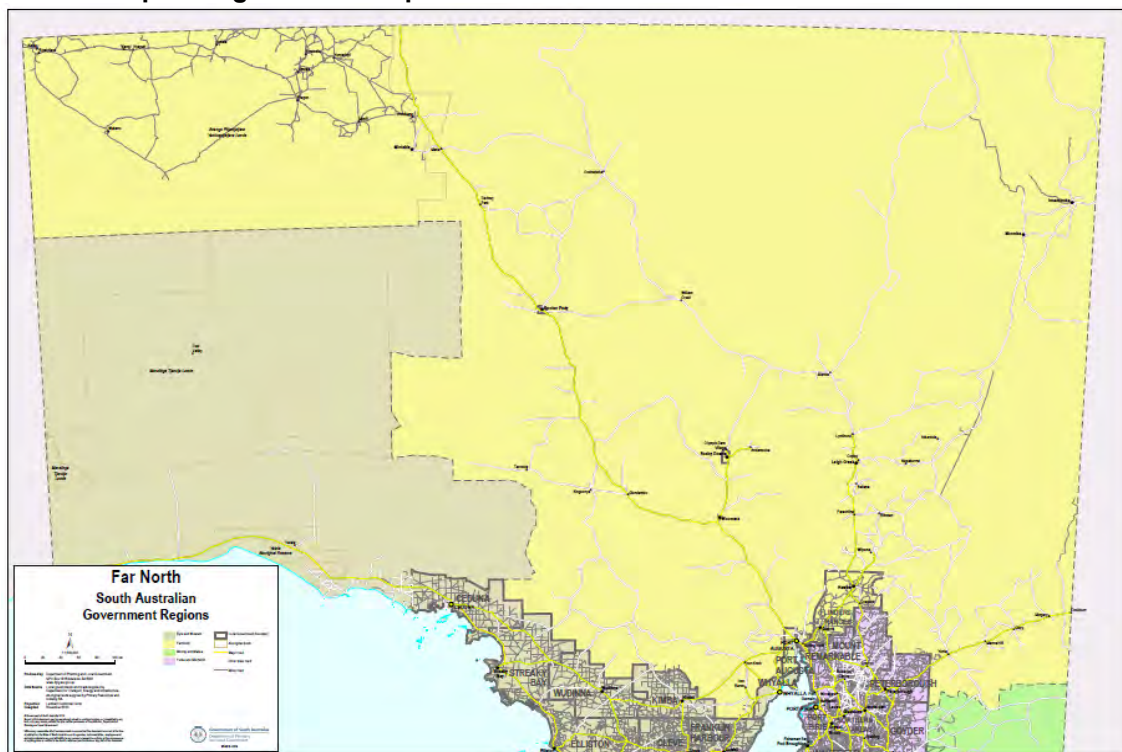
Unincorporated areas

- Unincorporated Far North
- Unincorporated Flinders Ranges
- Unincorporated Lincoln
- Unincorporated Pirie
- Unincorporated Whyalla

Aboriginal Lands

- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY Lands)

Figure 18: Map of Regional Development Australia Far North



Source: Department of Planning and Local Government of South Australia.

Facts about the region

- The estimated resident population of the region inclusive of unincorporated areas is 28,726 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate).
- The economy relies principally on mining; the region is rich in uranium, copper, gold and iron ore, producing 70 per cent of the states mining output.
- Other important industries include tourism, agriculture and defence, containing aerospace and defence facilities of strategic importance to the state.

- Olympic Dam located near Roxby Downs has the world's largest known reserves of uranium and fourth largest reserve of copper potentially providing employment to over 4,000 workers.
- Port Augusta is the region's largest city with a population of 14,784 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate) comprising major commercial, retail and educational facilities. Other major commercial and service centres include Leigh Creek, Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs.

Box 1: Additional information about the Far North

- Mining developments will require significant investment in new infrastructure to support mining production the accommodation of workers families and in response to household consumption expenditure.
- Skilled workers in construction and plant operation need to be attracted to the region to live either permanently or on a temporary basis as fly-in fly-out workers.
- Mining towns such as Roxby Downs have numbers of un-skilled and semi-skilled workers above the state average, although many are employed in full-time work. Any downturn in mining makes this group vulnerable to job losses.
- Opportunities exist to up-skill or re-skill long-term unemployed and disadvantaged workers for employment in mining and related industries.
- Over reliance on mining for local employment and export income makes the region vulnerable/sensitive to fluctuations in the global economy affecting the demand for resources and continuation of the current mining boom.
- A focus on improving education outcomes for Indigenous and non-indigenous students is needed to increase secondary school retention rates.
- Approximately 20 per cent of the state's Indigenous population live in the Far North and there is a need to provide more workforce opportunities.
- Workforce opportunities are needed for residents aged 15-19 years with 28.9 per cent not in full-time education of employment compared with the state average of 21.6 per cent.

Source: Skills for jobs, The Training and Skills Commission's five year plan for skills and workforce development, 2011.

Key Issues for the region

Consultation with local government, industry groups and communities revealed issues of most concern. Together these issues can be grouped under four themes, (A) environment and culture, (B) economic development, (C) population and settlements and (D) infrastructure and service provision.

Underlying each theme are principles and policies (e.g., as in A Environment and Culture) to help realise the regions vision and full potential. Issues, challenges, opportunities and barriers as highlighted by the RDAFN Regional Roadmap are grouped under each of the four themes and commentary is drawn from the RDA roadmap (as in A.1, A.2, B.1 etc).

A. Environment and culture

- *Recognise, protect and restore the regions environmental assets;*
- *Ensure the efficient use of water and energy;*
- *Protect people, property and environment from exposure to hazards;*
- *Effectively manage waste, wastewater and stormwater;*
- *Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character;*
- *Create the conditions for the region to adapt and become resilient to the impacts of climate change*

A.1 Climate change – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The impacts of climate change are not widely discussed in the RDAFN Roadmap.
- More generally the likely effects would be more frequent and severe heat waves, fires, floods and droughts resulting in reduced productivity of the agriculture and pastoral sectors.
- The introduction of a carbon tax may have a detrimental effect on Port Augusta's energy sector, although the region is well placed for large scale investment in renewable energy technologies.
- The region anticipates that the carbon tax will also affect towns and communities using diesel power generation for their electricity supply because of the reduced off-road diesel fuel rebate.

A.2 Renewable energy – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- Opportunities exist for the development of alternative energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal energy which are abundant in the region.
- For businesses and residents in remote settlements using off-grid power sources such as diesel generators and gas turbines, alternative power sources i.e., renewable energy have been explored and diesel generation currently remains the only cost effective power generation for their needs.

A.3 Water – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- Potable water from the River Murray is piped to the Upper Spencer Gulf region via the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline distributing a reliable water supply from Port Augusta to Woomera.
- Several Aboriginal communities are provided with reticulated water by agreement with Coober Pedy and Ceduna councils but other remote communities are reliant on desalinated groundwater.
- In the Far North Outback and Aboriginal communities the high cost of water (up to \$14 per kilolitre) is a major issue posing health risks to residents as they try to conserve water.
- Remote settlements and Aboriginal communities in the APY Lands often have the poorest service in terms of cost and standard relying on progress associations for their supply or alternatively collecting water themselves.
- Inadequate and unreliable water supply presents difficulties for remote communities in attracting new investment in mining; it also leads to unsustainable communities.

B. Economic development

- *Protect and build on the regions strategic infrastructure;*
- *Provide and protect well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand;*
- *Safeguard mineral, oil and gas resources, and support further exploration, extraction and processing;*
- *Reinforce the Flinders Ranges and the Outback as iconic tourist destinations;*
- *Retain and support ongoing aerospace and defence industry operations;*
- *Retain and strengthen the economic potential of pastoral lands;*
- *Focus commercial development in key towns and ensure it is well sited and designed;*
- *Foster sustainable alternative energy and water supply industries;*
- *Support aquaculture and fishing industries at Port Augusta.*

B.1 Mining – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Approximately 50,000 square kilometres of the Outback is under exploration leases, the region possesses deposits of lead, nickel, zinc, gold, copper, magnetite, chromium, tin, coal, diamonds, heavy mineral sands, iron ore and uranium.
- Contains 72 per cent of South Australia's mineral resources projects; as of August 2011 there were a total of 46 mineral projects in South Australia, seventeen approved and twenty nine developing projects; of the seventeen approved projects fourteen are located in RDAFN and of the twenty nine developing projects nineteen are located in RDAFN.
- Essential infrastructure of roads, rail, airports, energy and water are insufficient to meet the needs of the resources sector.
- Rural roads linking mines with major arterial roads are unsealed and poorly maintained.
- Much of the region lacks a cheap and reliable electricity supply because it is not connected to the national power grid.
- Governments are reluctant to invest in infrastructure in RDAFN because they receive a limited return on their investment; instead the burden of paying for infrastructure rests with councils, Outback Communities Authority (OCA), communities and residents and mining companies.
- Opportunities exist for governments and mining companies to share infrastructure costs providing benefits to both mining companies and the community.
- Governments could use royalty revenue to cover some of the costs of infrastructure development.

B.2 Tourism – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Visitors to RDAFN come most frequently as day-trippers from other parts of South Australia supporting approximately 300 tourism businesses.
- There is growth in through traffic from "caravaners and grey nomads", especially via Port Augusta which is the central point for east-west travel and travel up through the north of the State into Alice Springs and beyond.
- Lack of basic tourist infrastructure in outback areas e.g., toilets and signs, limited aviation infrastructure and unsealed tourist roads are barriers to the industry reaching its full potential.
- While the Flinders Ranges region benefits as a whole from increased visitors with Hawker and Quorn becoming tourist service centres, maintenance of some

tourist roads promoted by SATC, are funded by councils from their own revenue streams (i.e., rates), with approximately 500,000 visitors utilising these roads each year the burden of upkeep rests with only a few thousand rate payers.

B.3 Agriculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Agricultural activity comprises some cropping in the southern areas and pastoralism in the north.
- According to the Economic and Environmental Indicators for South Australia and its regions, 2006/07 DTED report, the total value of output in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing was \$83 million (1.8 per cent of total output for SA and 2 per cent of regional SA output)
- Gross value added for the same year was \$46 million (2.0 per cent of regional gross state product and 1.8 per cent of total SA gross state product).

B.4 Aquaculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Opportunity exists to diversify into the aquaculture industry in the Spencer Gulf near Port Augusta.

B.5 Defence – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The expansive area of the Far North is suited to defence activities and is home to the Cultana Training Area located between Port Augusta and Whyalla and the Woomera Test Range located in central South Australia.
- A planned expansion of the Cultana Training Area from 50,000 hectares to 200,000 hectares will further integrate the area into the Australian Army's training network and support future training needs of the defence force.
- The Woomera Test Range is the largest land-based range in the world designated for military test activities comprising 127,000 square kilometres; it also supports civilian and commercial aerospace activities.

C. Population and settlements – Principles and policies

- *Reinforce the role, functionality and vibrancy of towns and settlements;*
- *Strategically plan and manage township growth;*
- *Design towns to provide safe, healthy, accessible and appealing environments;*
- *Provide residential land for a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet the needs of current and future residents;*

C.1 Population – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The LGAs of Roxby Downs and Port Augusta account for a large portion of RDAFN's population growth.
- A shortage of accommodation exists in Roxby Downs due to insufficient land set aside and designated for residential housing.
- Smaller outback centres such as Andamooka have grown to accommodate workers from Olympic Dam.
- Andamooka has approximately 800 residents growing by more than 50 per cent since 2006. The town supports future growth in Roxby Downs acting as its "outer suburb".
- Andamooka's population is expected to double in size within several years further straining the town's limited infrastructure.

C.2 Education, skills and unemployment – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The challenge of attracting and maintaining quality staff is considered the most pressing issue for employers in the RDAFN region.
- Barriers faced attracting workers to the region include limited housing, insufficient training facilities and inability of small businesses to compete with high wages offered by the resources sector.
- High unemployment in the APY Lands and Coober Pedy is caused by low secondary school retention rates and limited employment opportunities especially amongst the Indigenous community.
- The proportion of residents with certificate level qualifications is above the state average but below the state average for bachelor degrees and post-graduate degrees.
- Programs for local residents linking skills training to mining careers need further development.
- The establishment of a regional campus at Port Augusta by the University of Adelaide will allow greater retention of younger residents in the city and surrounding region providing skills training leading to employment outcomes.

C.3 Housing – Issues Identified in RDA Roadmap

- Residential housing and rental accommodation in Roxby Downs is expensive and in short supply, to maintain township growth and address the housing shortage further residential accommodation is needed.

D. Infrastructure and services provision

- *Protect and build on the regions strategic infrastructure;*

D.1 Infrastructure – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Residents in outback communities lack basic services such as a reliable water and electricity supply, waste disposal and communications e.g., internet, radio and phone and need new infrastructure.
- Water quality, quantity and cost vary in remote areas due to insufficient water infrastructure; a more reliable water supply is needed to meet the minimum standards of public health requirements.
- Demand for new infrastructure is also driven by the mining industry requiring significant investment in road, rail, energy, airports and water infrastructure.
- Commercially funded infrastructure of this nature is not viable due to the geographic size and sparse population of RDAFN leaving the burden of infrastructure development with councils, communities, residents and mining companies.
- Growth of the resources sector presents the opportunity for mining companies to provide capital for essential infrastructure that will not only serve their purposes but benefit the community.
- Most of the region is not connected to the national electricity grid because it is not cost effective due to the sparse population and large geographical area.
- Opportunities exist for further improvement of the outback's power supply using solar technology with the Outback representing 30 per cent of installations as part of the Solar Schools program.
- Infrastructure challenges for the township of Andamooka relate to the need for cheaper and more reliable energy supplies, expanded health care services,

improved roads and additional industrial facilities for contractors to service Olympic Dam as its population increases.

Table 1 summarises the demographic composition of towns and local government areas in the Far North region relative to South Australia.

Table 1: Demographic summary Far North region, 2006

	Far North Regional Balance	Port Augusta	APY Lands	Roxby Downs	Cooper Pedy	Flinders Ranges Council Area	Far North Region Total	South Australia
Population	2,925	13,874	2,230	4,054	1,913	1,731	26,727	1,514,336
Under 14 years (%)	18	21	27	28	17	20	22	19
24-54 years (%)	49	42	41	55	42	37	44	41
Over 65 years (%)	7	12	5	0.5	13	20	10	15
Indigenous (%)	13	17	85	2	14	8	19	2
Workforce participation (%)	72	56	52	82	48	50	58	59
Unemployment rate (%)	3.9	6.0	7.6	0.3	6.4	2.9	7.5	5.2
Median weekly household income (\$)	894	795	891	2,033	533	655	967	887

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006 and Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, 2007, quoted in Far North Regional Plan July 2010, Volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy.

Major projects

The following section contains a list of major projects in the RDAFN region which have been approved, are in progress or are under consideration as outlined in the South Australian governments Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Port Augusta

Project title: Lincoln Gap Wind Farm
Organisation: Lincoln Gap Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Project details: Installation of 59 wind turbine generators at Lincoln Gap, Port Augusta. The capacity of each turbine is to be finalised but expected to be between 2.5MW and 3MW.
Project cost: \$360 million
Estimated completion date: May 2014
Status: Approved

Project title: Common Ground – Port Augusta (Augusta Terrace)
Organisation: Department for Families and Communities (Housing SA)
Project details: Construction of 35 rental units for disadvantaged individuals on low incomes or at risk of becoming homeless.
Project cost: \$5.6 million
Estimated completion date: January 2013
Status: Cabinet then Public Works Review

Project title: Port Augusta Secondary School
Organisation: Department of Education and Children Development
Project details: Upgrade and extension of existing buildings at the Stirling Campus
Project cost: \$5.6 million
Estimated completion date: December 2011
Status: Included in 2011/12 Capital Investment Statement

Project title: Carrapateena
Organisation: OZ Minerals
Project details: The Carrapateena deposit is an iron oxide copper-gold uranium deposit located 250km southeast of the existing Prominent Hill mine. The project is at feasibility stage and will be at bankable feasibility stage in four years.
Project cost: Undisclosed
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: In progress

Project title: Sundrop Farms Expansion Project
Organisation: Sundrop Farms Pty Ltd
Project details: Expansion of Sundrop Farm's existing greenhouse using sunlight and seawater to grow high value crops.
Project cost: \$25 million
Estimated completion date: Early 2013
Status: Investment approved.

Project title: Acquasol Point Paterson Solar Thermal Hybrid Power and Water Desalination Plant
Organisation: Acquasol Infrastructure Pty Ltd
Project details: Proposed construction of a 200MW combined solar cycle/solar thermal power and water desalination plant with land based brine harvesting, located 7 km south of Port Augusta.
Project cost: \$550 million
Estimated completion date: November 2014
Status: Under consideration

Coober Pedy

Project title: Arckaringa Coal to Liquids and Power Plant („The Arckaringa Project")
Organisation: Altona Energy Plc
Project details: Project is at feasibility study stage, involving construction of an integrated 10 million barrel per year coal to liquids plant and 560MW co-generation power facility north of Coober Pedy.
Project cost: \$3.5 billion
Estimated completion date: December 2017
Status: Under consideration

Project title: Cairn Hill Phase II
Organisation: IMX Resources Limited
Project details: Located 55km Southeast of Coober Pedy mining of Cairn Hill phase I began in May 2010. Mining of Phase II will commence in 2012.
Project cost: \$5 million - \$10 million
Estimated completion date: 2015 (concurrent with phase I)
Status: Approvals pending

Roxby Downs

Project title: Olympic Dam Expansion
Organisation: BHP Billiton Olympic Dam Corporation Pty Ltd
Project details: Expansion of mining and processing at Olympic Dam mine site together with associated infrastructure in the north of the state. The expansion is planned to occur in stages and will involve the world's largest open cut operation. Production of copper would be increased to 750,000 tonnes per year.
Project cost: BHP has not released an official project cost figure as yet. An independent valuation by Deutsche Bank estimates the expansion cost to be around \$27.4 billion (assuming \$1.00 USD = \$1.00 AUD).
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: Approved

Project title: Government Employee Housing
Organisation: Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
Project details: Procurement of additional government employee housing in Roxby Downs to support the expansion of government services.
Project cost: \$15.5 million
Estimated completion date: June 2012
Status: 2011/12 Capital Investment Statement

Flinders Ranges

Project title: Beverley North
Organisation: Heathgate Resources
Project details: The Beverley North mine is located 10km north of the existing Beverley Uranium mine (550km north of Adelaide) and will capture uranium near the existing ore body. Processing will be carried out at the existing Beverley mine.
Project cost: \$50 million
Estimated completion date: January 2011 – Pepegoona Satellite mine
 July 2011 – Panikan Satellite mine
Status: In progress

Project title: Four Mile
Organisation: Quasar Resources
Project details: Four Mile uranium mine is located adjacent the Beverley Uranium mine and is a joint venture between Quasar Resources and Alliance Resources.
Project cost: \$112 million
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: Pending

Project title: Paralana Geothermal Energy Joint Venture Project
Organisation: Petratherm Limited
Project details: Petratherm with joint venture partners Beach Energy and TRUenergy Geothermal have started construction of a geothermal power station in the Mount Painter region in the Flinders ranges.
Project cost: \$50 million
Estimated completion date: End 2012
Status: In progress

Curnamona

Project title: Crocker Well Uranium Project
Organisation: SinoSteel PepinNini Curnamona Management Pty Ltd
Project details: Joint venture project between SinoSteel Uranium SA Pty Ltd (60 per cent) and PepinNini Resources Curnamona Pty Ltd (40 per cent) to develop a uranium deposit in the Curnamona region of South Australia.
Project cost: Undisclosed
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: Under consideration

Cooper Basin

Project title: Cooper Basin – Strike Energy
Organisation: Strike Energy Ltd
Project details: Proposed exploration and development of coal seam gas (CSG) in the Southern Cooper Basin. Drilling in 2010 confirmed gas in 21m of Permian Coal Seams along with thermogenic and biogenic gas. Technical reviews by CSG specialists confirm a prospective resource of 3,700 to 9,300 petajoules of gas. Unconventional shale gas/liquids are being evaluated alongside the CSG exploration program but its potential is yet to be finalised.
Project cost: Undisclosed
Estimated completion date: Not available, dependent on exploration program results. Anticipate 2014 onwards.
Status: Exploration

Project title:	Cooper Basin – Acer Energy
Organisation:	Acer Energy Limited (formerly Innamincka Petroleum Limited)
Project details:	Acer Energy is involved in identifying, exploring and developing oil and gas opportunities focused on the Cooper Basin. The company has a balanced tenement portfolio providing exposure to both oil and gas exploration and development opportunities. The company's exploration program for the next few years includes 3D seismic acquisition and the drilling of wells.
Project cost:	Undisclosed
Estimated completion date:	Not available
Status:	In progress and ongoing
Project title:	Cooper Basin – Beach Energy
Organisation:	Beach Energy Limited
Project details:	Beach Energy has a 21 per cent interest in the Cooper Basin operating 19 oil fields in the region with five gas discoveries awaiting development.
Project cost:	Financial year 2011/12 estimate of Beach's share of capital costs is \$64 million.
Estimated completion date:	Ongoing
Status:	Producing fields plus ongoing exploration on surrounding acreage.
Project title:	Cooper Basin – Senex Energy
Organisation:	Senex Energy Limited
Project details:	Senex is an independent oil producer in the Cooper Basin, targeting significant increases in oil reserves and short to medium term oil production. In 2011/12 Senex will undertake a large oil exploration program in the Cooper Basin Western Flank and Growler Oil field. Senex will also joint venture with other major producers to build and operate new oil flowlines and trunklines to more efficiently transport oil from the western margin to Moomba processing plant.
Project cost:	\$ 50 million
Estimated completion date:	Continues
Status:	Approved
Project title:	Geodynamics, Demonstration HFR Plant
Organisation:	Geodynamic Limited
Project details:	A renewable energy project in the Cooper Basin using geothermal energy, „hot fractured rocks“, to produce 1-2 MW of power from a pilot plant built on a single injection and production well. If successful the plant will be expanded to a large scale commercial operation producing 500MW of clean energy for sale to the national grid.
Project cost:	\$40 million
Estimated completion date:	December 2012
Status:	In progress

Project title: Cooper Basin Unconventional Gas Exploration
Organisation: Senex Energy Limited
Project details: During 2011/12 Senex will carry out coring, logging and testing within the southern Cooper Basin to assess the potential of the Permian sands, coals and shales for tight sands, gas coal seam gas and shale gas.
Project cost: \$60 million
Estimated completion date: June 2012
Status: In progress

Other Far North

Project title: Honeymoon Uranium Project
Organisation: Joint venture between Uranium One Australia Pty Ltd (51 per cent) Mitsui & Co Uranium Australia Pty Ltd (49 per cent)
Project details: This mining development uses an in-situ leach process to recover uranium. Leach testing occurred over an 18 month period through an on-site demonstration plant and field leach trial.
Project cost: \$146 million
Estimated completion date: Construction completed Q4 2010
Status: Commissioning in progress

Project title: Kalkaroo Copper-Gold-Molybdenum Project
Organisation: Havilah Resources NL.
Project details: A large copper-gold-molybdenum discovery containing a JORC measured resource of 62.5 million tonnes. The resource can sustain annual production of 30,000 tonnes of copper and 95,000 ounces of gold for 12 years.
Project cost: \$ 200 million
Estimated completion date: Not available
Status: Preparation of all documentation required for mine permitting

Project title: Mutooroo Copper-Cobalt Project
Organisation: Havilah Resources NL.
Project details: Open-pittable copper-cobalt deposits containing an estimated JORC resource of 13.1 million tonnes with potential for triple this resource along strike and down dip. The open pit operation could produce high-grade copper concentrate along with sulphuric acid, cobalt and iron ore. The operation possesses very favourable logistics.
Project cost: \$ 25 million (for mine, crushing and handling facilities only)
Estimated completion date: 2012
Status: Preparation of all documentation required for mine permitting

Project title:	Prominent Hill Underground Expansion (Ankata)
Organisation:	OZ Minerals
Project details:	A commitment has been made to expand the existing Prominent Hill copper and gold operation by expanding the mine from its existing open-pit operation to an underground mine.
Project cost:	\$ 135 million
Estimated completion date:	Q3 2012
Status:	In progress
Project title:	Portia Gold Project
Organisation:	Havilah Resources NL
Project details:	Small open pitable gold deposit with a JORC inferred resource of 720,000 tonnes of 2.9g/t gold. Gold is recovered through a low cost gravity separation plant.
Project cost:	\$26 million (for mining overburden, gravity processing plant, other infrastructure)
Estimated completion date:	Second half of 2014
Status:	Mining lease granted and project at advanced stage of preparation of documentation required for an open-pit mining operation.
Project title:	Maldorky Iron Ore Project
Organisation:	Havilah Resources NL.
Project details:	A magnetite iron ore discovery containing a Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) indicated resource of 147 million tonnes, located in the Braemar Iron Province 300km east of Port Pirie. The flat/shallow ore body is easily exploitable by a low-cost open mining process and contains low levels of impurities.
Project cost:	\$35 million
Estimated completion date:	Not available
Status:	Preparation of all documentation required for mine permitting.
Project title:	Amata and Mimili Water Infrastructure and Conservation Project
Organisation:	Department of Water
Project details:	Approved water infrastructure upgrades and implementation of a water conservation program to aboriginal communities of Amata and Mimili in the APY Lands.
Project cost:	\$5.5 million
Estimated completion date:	June 2012
Status:	Approved
Project title:	Hawker Desalination Plant
Organisation:	SA Water Corporation
Project details:	Proposed desalination plant Hawker to improve potable water supply.
Project cost:	\$8.1 million
Estimated completion date:	June 2013
Status:	2011-12 Capital Investment Statement

Table 2: South Australian local government capital expenditure for 2011/12

Council	Local government expenditure 2011/12 (\$)
Port Augusta City Council	4,244,000
Cooper Pedy District Council	74,000
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	Not available
Flinders Ranges Council	Not available

Source: South Australian Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Appendix A

Selected Statistics: Labour market outcomes

Regional Development Australia Far North

Population	RDA Far North	% of State Total	South Australia
Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2010	28,713	1.7%	1,644,582
Net Change in ERP 2009 to 2010	166	-	20,992
Rate of Population Change (%)	0.6%	-	1.3%
% of Total Population			
Youth (15-24)	3,669	12.8%	13.7%
Mature (45-64)	7,453	26.0%	26.3%
Aboriginal – Census 2006	5,046	18.7%	1.7%
People with a disability (15-64) – Census 2006	474	2.6%	2.7%
Labour Force (Dept of Education & Workplace Relations: March 2011)			
Total Employed	13,048	-	812,100
Total Unemployed	916	-	47,200
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	-	5.5%
Participation Rate (June 2010)	63.1%	-	62.7%
Industry Employment (Census 2006)			
% of Total Employment			
Mining	1,492	12.7%	0.9%
Retail Trade	1,446	12.3%	14.7%
Health and Community Services	1,403	11.9%	12.7%
Education	953	8.1%	7.4%
Qualifications (Census 2006)			
% of Total Population (15 years and older)			
Degree or higher	1,443	6.9%	13.0%
Diploma	837	4.0%	6.5%
Certificate Level III or IV	3,420	16.3%	14.3%
Training (NCVER 2009)			
% of State Total			
VET Students	2,682	2.2%	121,851
Students reporting Disability	5.6%	-	6.2%
Aboriginal Students	23.0%	-	3.6%
Commencing Apprentices and Trainees (2008)	418	1.9%	21,960

Source: data extracted from Workforce Wizard, DFEEST, November 2011

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North

Overview

Geography

- RDA Yorke and Mid North covers an area of 34,883 square kilometres or 3.5 per cent of the State's land mass. The area designated as agricultural land is 97 per cent of the region.

Population

- As at 30th June 2010 the region had a population of 76,549 persons or 4.7 per cent of the State's population. The Indigenous population was 1.7 per cent, just above the overall State average.

Economy and Labour force

- The region contributed \$2,201 million to the State economy in 2006/07 or 3.2 per cent of gross state product.
- The unemployment rate is a full percentage point below that for the State at 4.3 per cent while the labour force participation rate is some 6 percentage points below that for the State.
- The region has an above average rate for VET participation and is close to the State average for full-time secondary school participation (Region 76.4 to South Australia 78.4) but the NAPLAN results are 12 points lower at year 3 and 6 points lower at year 7 relative to the State average (set to 100).
- The three largest employing industries are agriculture (20.7 per cent), retail trade (15.1 per cent), and health and community services (12.5 per cent). Manufacturing is also significant across the region in terms of employment and gross value added.

Opportunities for growth

- The region is home to the Clare and Gilbert Valley with an international reputation for premium wine and tourism.
- Emerging agricultural and horticultural industries, tourism and as a retirement location provide the region with "clean, green" export prospects and a source of population growth.
- Energy industries including wind farms and geothermal wells are already situated in the region, there is on-going mineral exploration and opportunities to advance minerals processing.
- The aquaculture industry while relatively small has growth potential; employment growth is expected in health and community services, retail, manufacturing and residential housing construction.

Education and Skills

- The region reports labour and skill shortages and unemployment is below the State average. However, the workforce participation rate is 6 to 8 per cent below the State average which suggests hidden unemployment, a perception that there are few job vacancies and the need to create greater access to training for all ages.
- While the region has seasonal variations in the employment demand this can be addressed by further investment in skills training, business management and entrepreneurship.

Indicators¹

Geography and Population

	RDA Yorke and Mid North	South Australia
Geography		
Land area - square kilometres (includes unincorporated areas)	34,883	985,292
Land area as a percentage of the state - per cent	3.5	100.0
Area of agricultural land (2006) - hectares '000	3,397	55,408
Demographics		
Total population (2010) - all persons	76,549	1,640,638
Males (2010) - all males	38,460	810,264
Females (2010) - all females	38,089	830,374
Change in population (2001-2010) - per cent change	5.0	9.0
Change in population (2001-2005) - per cent change	1.0	2.8
Change in population (2005-2010) - per cent change	4.0	6.0
Population as a percentage of state population (2010) - per cent	4.7	100.0
Population density (2010) - persons/square kilometre	2.19	1.67
Birth rate (2010) - babies born per 1,000 people	10.0	12.2
Death rate (2010) - deaths per 1,000 people	11.3	7.9
Population projections (Dept of Planning and Local Government)		
2016	77,852	1,770,644
2021	79,179	1,856,435
2026	80,430	1,935,161
Projected change in population from 2011 to 2026 - per cent	5.4	16.1
CAGR for region, 2011-2026	0.4	1.0
Age profile (2010)		
0-14 years	18.4	17.8
15-24 years	10.5	13.6
25-34 years	8.9	13.0
35-44 years	12.0	13.6
45-54 years	14.6	14.0
55-64 years	14.8	12.3
65-74 years	11.2	8.0
75-84 years	6.9	5.3
85 years and over	2.6	2.3
Indigenous population (2006) - all persons	1,287	24,823
Indigenous population as a percentage of total population (2006) - per cent	1.7	1.6

Note: ¹ All indicators exclude unincorporated areas of South Australia unless otherwise indicated.

Economy 2006/07

	Gross value ¹ added (\$m)		Gross value added - per cent of total gross regional product		Employment by industry - per cent of total employment	
	RDA Y&MN	South Australia	RDA Y&MN	South Australia	RDA Y&MN	South Australia
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	357	2,603	16.2	3.8	20.7	4.9
Mining	30	2,224	1.4	3.3	0.6	0.9
Manufacturing	279	8,815	12.7	12.9	9.8	13.4
Electricity, gas and water	49	1,884	2.2	2.8	0.7	0.9
Building and construction	147	4,432	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6
Wholesale trade	72	2,765	3.3	4.0	3.4	4.4
Retail trade	138	3,829	6.3	5.6	15.1	14.9
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	64	1,476	2.9	2.2	5.8	4.4
Transport and storage	78	3,270	3.5	4.8	3.0	3.9
Communication services	24	1,467	1.1	2.1	0.8	1.3
Finance and insurance	57	3,993	2.6	5.8	1.7	3.9
Ownership of dwellings	239	6,074	10.9	8.9	0.0	0.0
Property and business services	89	6,533	4.0	9.6	4.2	9.3
Public administration and defence	50	2,417	2.3	3.5	3.7	5.4
Education	113	3,144	5.1	4.6	7.9	7.6
Health and community services	150	4,974	6.8	7.3	12.5	13.1
Cultural and recreational services	14	1,039	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.8
Personal services	34	1,547	1.5	2.3	2.7	3.9
Total²	2,201	68,327	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: ¹ The sum of gross value added across all industries plus taxes less subsidies on products equals gross regional/state product at purchasers prices. Gross value added for each region has been estimated by EconSearch using input-output (I-O) models. For additional information on gross value added and definitions of key terms, see ABS, Australian National Accounts, Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2000, Cat. No. 5216.0.

² Total does not include net taxes (i.e., taxes less subsidies on products and production) paid by households and other components of final demand. Therefore totals do not sum to 100 per cent.

Supportive Statistics

	RDA Yorke and Mid North	South Australia
Trade¹		
Exports (2006/07) - \$ billions	1.6	27.4
Imports, (2006/07) - \$ billions	2.1	30.8
Labour force		
Labour force (June 2011)	34,126	861,537
Total employed (June 2011)	32,660	814,507
Total unemployed (June (2011)	1,466	47,030
Participation rate (2009)	57.5	63.1
Unemployment rate (June 2011) - per cent	4.3	5.5
Number of job service/disability employment service providers	47	450
Education		
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16 (2006) - per cent	76.4	78.4
Participation in VET courses (2009) - per 1,000 persons	84.5	73.5

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Yorke and Mid North	South Australia
NAPLAN results² (2011) – average score		
Year 3		
Reading	353	402
Spelling	347	392
Numeracy	340	379
Year 5		
Reading	424	478
Spelling	430	474
Numeracy	433	471
Year 7		
Reading	502	534
Spelling	502	533
Numeracy	502	535
Health (Selected LGAs)		
Low birth weight babies (2006 to 2008) - as a percentage of total births	6.9	6.8
Mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy (2006 to 2008) - per cent	23.5	16.7
Children fully immunised at 12 to less than 15 months of age (2008) - per cent	91.7	91.8
Obese persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	20.2	17.4
Overweight (not obese) persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	30.4	29.4
Housing characteristics		
Median house price (September quarter 2011) – Port Pirie	187,500	360,000
Dwelling fully owned (2006) – per cent	45.4	33.7
Dwelling being purchased (2006) – per cent	26.7	33.5
Dwelling being rented (2006) – per cent	21.2	25.6
Rent assistance from Centrelink (March quarter 2011) - per cent of population	6.1	6.5
Average residential valuation (2010) - \$	218,031	344,446
Average rates per residential property (2010) - \$	842	1,065
Income		
Average wage and salary income (2009) - \$	35,587	41,896
Average own unincorporated business income (2009) - \$	16,554	19,659
Average investment income ⁴ (2009) - \$	7,433	7,651
Average superannuation and annuity income (2009) - \$	21,943	24,793
Income support (Selected LGAs)		
Age pension recipients (2009) - per cent	79.0	77.5
Disability support recipients (2009) - per cent	11.3	7.1
Single parent payment recipients (2009) - per cent	6.4	5.8
Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	5.7	4.5
Long-term unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	4.4	3.2
Youth Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	9.3	6.1
Low income and welfare dependant families with children (2009) - per cent	10.2	9.5
Children in low income families (2009) - per cent	24.7	22.0
Health care card holders (2009) - per cent	11.5	8.8
Pensioner concession card holders (2009) - per cent	32.1	23.6
Total Centrelink card holders (2009) - per cent	35.3	26.8

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Yorke and Mid North	South Australia
Tourism⁵		
Day visitors (2011)		
Number of domestic day trips – (,000)	793	10,472
Total expenditure by day trippers – \$m	63	944
Average expenditure by day trippers – \$	79	90
Number of overnight visitors (2011)		
Intrastate – (,000)	467	3,150
Interstate – (,000)	87	2,167
Domestic – (,000)	555	5,315
International – (,000)	8	530
Total – (,000)	563	5,845
Number of nights stayed (2011)		
Intrastate – (,000)	1,490	9,473
Interstate – (,000)	265	8,669
Domestic – (,000)	1,755	18,142
International – (,000)	53	8,454
Total – (,000)	1,808	26,596
Expenditure by overnight tourists		
Total domestic overnight expenditure (2011) - \$m	179	2,922
Average expenditure by domestic overnight visitor (2011) - \$	323	602
Characteristics of tourist establishments⁶ (2011)		
Establishments (no.)	11	266
Rooms (no.)	252	12,652
Bed spaces (no.)	734	34,583
Persons employed (no.)	139	7,138
Occupancy rate (per cent)	59.5	62.4
Environmental		
Greenhouse gas emissions (2005/06) - tonnes per person	23.8	20.0
Airports		
Passengers per annum (2010/11)	NA	7,756,574
CAGR of passenger numbers (2000/01 – 2010/11)	NA	5.1
Gambling		
No. of electronic gaming machines (2009/10)	957	12,684
NGR (2009/10) - \$/adult	518	571
Taxes (2009/10) - \$/adult	141	222
No. of EGM's per 1,000 adults (2009/10)	16.1	9.9

- Note:**
- ¹ The value of exports and imports at the regional level includes intrastate, interstate and international trade.
 - ² NAPLAN scores for Yorke and Mid North are based on a selection of DECS primary schools in Port Pirie, Kadina, Peterborough and Wallaroo. NAPLAN results are reported using a common scale ranging from 0 to 1000 for years 3, 5, 7 and 9, the scale is divided into ten bands ranging from band one (lowest achievement) to band 10 (highest achievement) as students progress to higher year levels the national minimum standard band level increases reflecting the greater complexity of skills assessed. For more information on interpreting NAPLAN results see www.naplan.edu.au
 - ³ Chronic disease and risk factor estimates not shown for Ororoo/Carrieton as it contains a population less than 1,000, estimates of obese and overweight persons for other LGAs are based on synthetic predictions using 2001 NHS data.
 - ⁴ Investment income includes: interest from financial institutions, net rent and dividends or distributions (including imputation credits) from an Australian company, corporate unit trust or public trading trust and distributions from trusts.
 - ⁵ Tourism data on day visits, overnight visits, number of nights stayed, expenditure and characteristics of establishments is based on regional boundaries according to the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and these differ slightly from Regional Development Australia boundaries (see regional and state profiles at <http://www.tourism.sa.gov.au> for maps of regions according to the SATC).
 - ⁶ Accommodation includes hotels, motels and guest houses and serviced apartments with 5 or more rooms or units; holiday flats, units and houses of letting entities with 15 or more rooms or units; caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites and visitor hostels with 25 or more bed spaces. The breakdown of tourist establishments by type of accommodation e.g., hotels, motels, guest houses, bed and breakfast etc. is not available.

Summary graphs – businesses and employment by occupation

Figures 1 through 4 show data on the number of businesses by industry sector, number of businesses by employee ranges, number of businesses by turnover range and top five occupations by persons employed relative to South Australia.

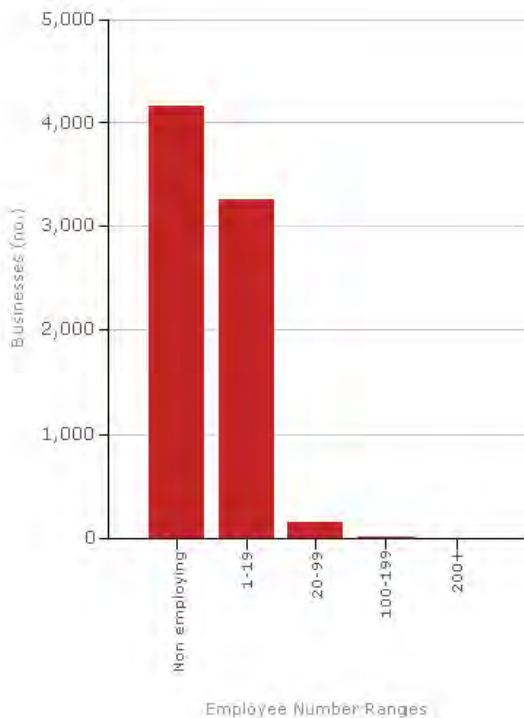
Figure 1: Number of businesses by industry – RDA Yorke and Mid North, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1292.0. Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Yorke and Mid North EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by industry (boundaries for the Yorke and Mid North State government region correspond with Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North boundaries).

Source: EasyData (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007).

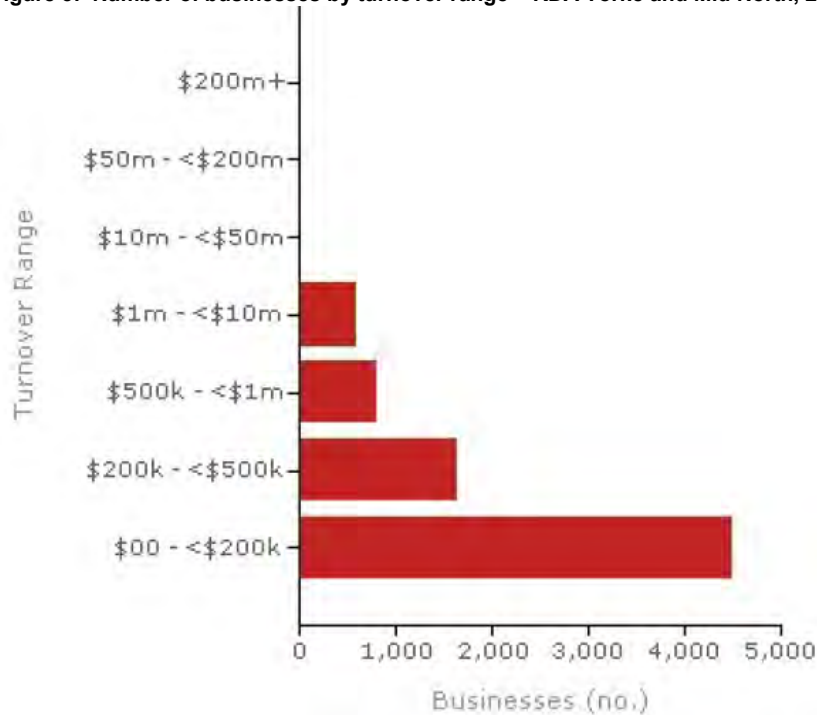
Figure 2: Number of businesses by employee ranges – RDA Yorke and Mid North, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the York and Mid North EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by employee ranges (boundaries for the Yorke and Mid North State government region correspond with Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North boundaries).

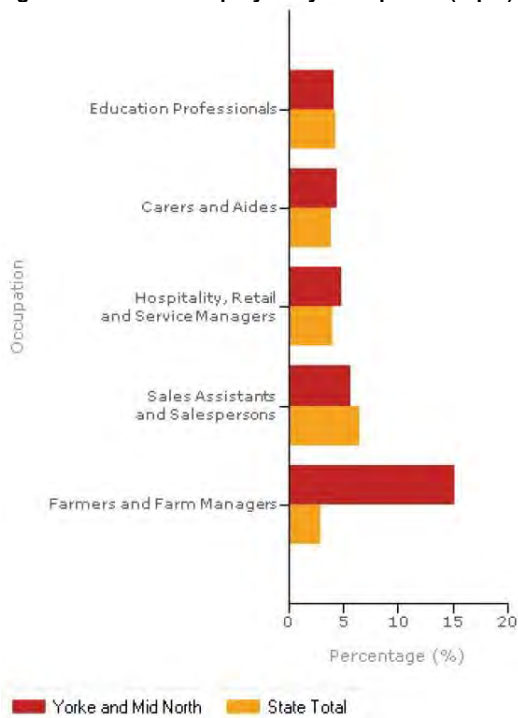
Source: EasyData (ABS, Cat. No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007).

Figure 3: Number of businesses by turnover range – RDA Yorke and Mid North, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Yorke and Mid North EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding the number of businesses by turnover range (boundaries for the Yorke and Mid North State government region correspond with Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North boundaries).
Source: EasyData (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007).

Figure 4: Persons employed by Occupation (top 5) – RDA Yorke and Mid North, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (ANZSCO) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1220.0 Presented at the Sub-Major Group (or 2-digit) level. Applicable to employed persons only.
Source: EasyData (ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006).

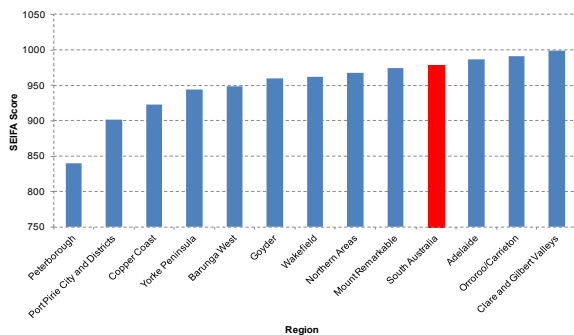
Indicators for local government areas

Figures 5 through 16 show selected indicators for Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North (RDAYMN) local government areas taken from the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) InstantAtlas. For comparison South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide are included in each graph. Brief commentary is provided of key trends or stand out characteristics in the data.

Clare and Gilbert Valleys and Orroroo/Carrieton are ranked highest in terms of the Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) scoring 999 and 991 respectively, all other LGAs are ranked below the South Australian average (979) and metropolitan Adelaide (987), (refer to Figure 5).

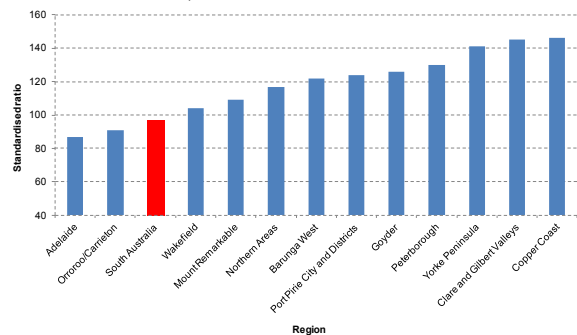
Based on a standardised ratio VET participation is highest in Copper Coast (146) followed by Clare and Gilbert Valleys (145), compared to 97 in South Australia and 87 in metropolitan Adelaide, (refer to Figure 6).

Figure 5: Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 6: Participation in VET Standardised ratio, 2009



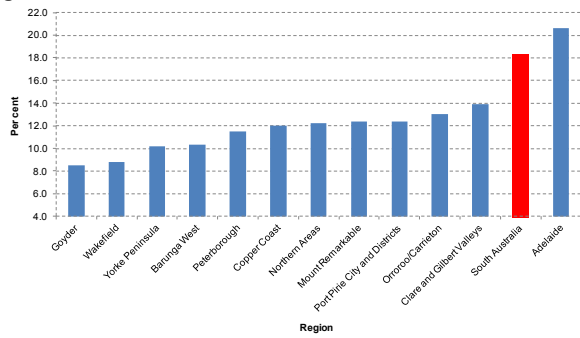
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Professionals comprise a smaller proportion of the workforce in LGAs of RDAYMN compared with South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide where they comprise 18.4 per cent and 20.6 per cent respectively, conversely workers identifying themselves as labourers (in agriculture and manufacturing) are more common in the LGAs relative to South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide; (refer to Figures 7 and 8).

Orroroo/Carrieton has the highest proportion of the workforce employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing (38.8 per cent) followed by Barunga West (35.3 per cent) and Goyder (33.7 per cent). In Port Pirie agriculture, forestry and fishing employs 5.2 per cent of the workforce with other sectors such as manufacturing and services employing significant numbers, (refer to Figure 9).

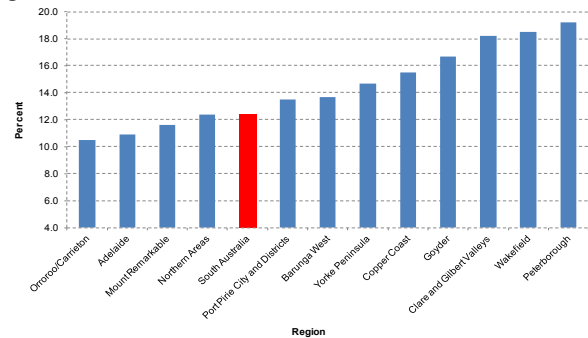
Peterborough has the highest proportion of low income families with children receiving income support (21.2 per cent) compared with 9.5 per cent across South Australia and 9.3 per cent in metropolitan Adelaide, (refer to Figure 10).

Figure 7: Occupation – Professionals
Per cent of workforce employed as professionals by local government area, 2006



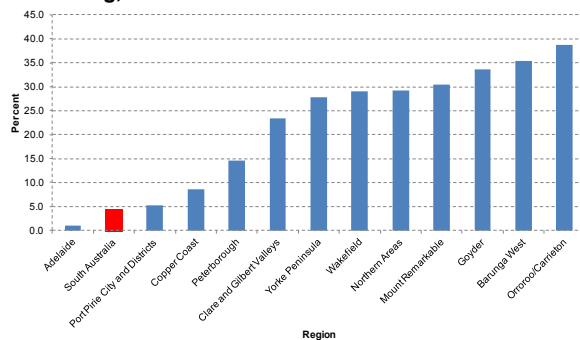
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 8: Occupation – Labourers
Per cent of workforce employed as labourers by local government area, 2006



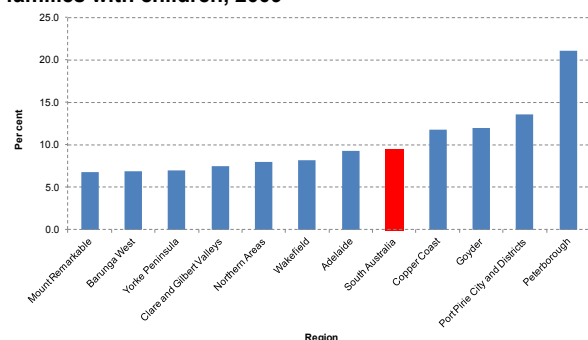
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 9: Industry – Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Per cent of workforce employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 10: Income support recipients
Per cent of welfare dependent and other low income families with children, 2009



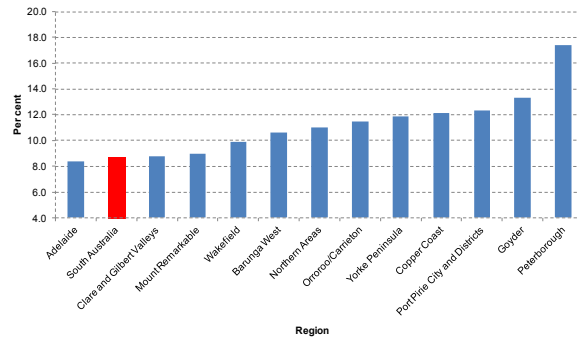
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Residents claiming Centrelink benefits such as, *inter alia*, the aged pension and allowances are automatically entitled to a health care card. The proportion of people holding a health care card is above the South Australian average (8.7 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (8.4 per cent) for all LGAs in RDAYMN, (refer to Figure 11).

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers comprise a larger proportion of the population in all LGAs relative to South Australia (18.2 per cent) except in Mount Remarkable (17.1 per cent) and Orroroo/Carrieton (14.2 per cent), (see Figure 12).

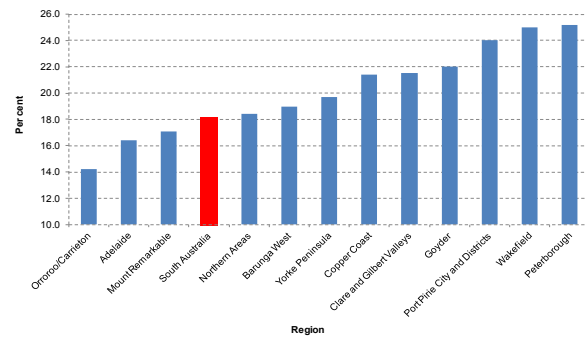
Participation in full-time secondary school education at age 16 is highest in Barunga West (96.2 per cent) compared with the South Australian average (78.3 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (79.6 per cent), (refer to Figure 14).

Figure 11: Health care card holders
Per cent, 2009



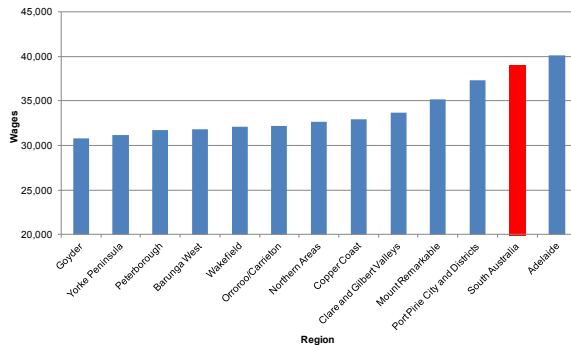
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 12: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers
Per cent, 2006



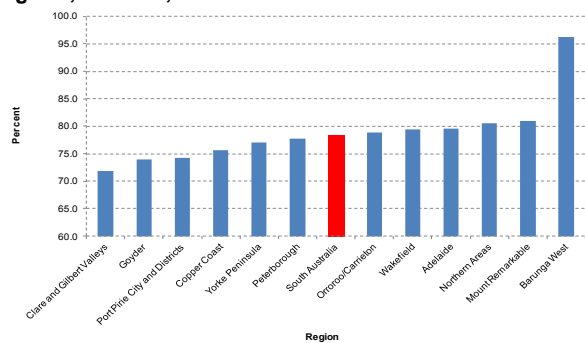
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 13: Wages per capita
Dollars, 2005/06



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 14: Education
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16, Per cent, 2006

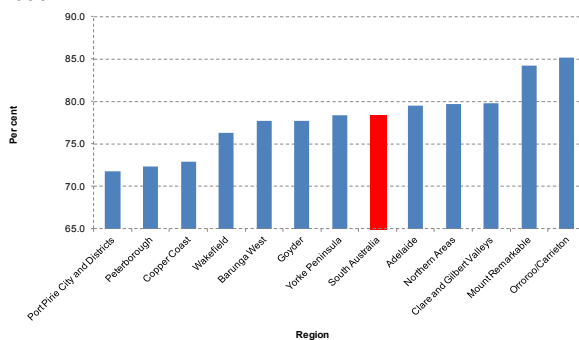


Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

The proportion of persons learning or earning at ages 15 to 19 is above the South Australian average (78.4 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (79.5 per cent) in Orroroo/Carrieton (85.2 per cent) followed by Mount Remarkable (84.2 per cent), Clare and Gilbert Valleys (79.8 per cent) and Northern Areas (79.7 per cent), (refer to Figure 15).

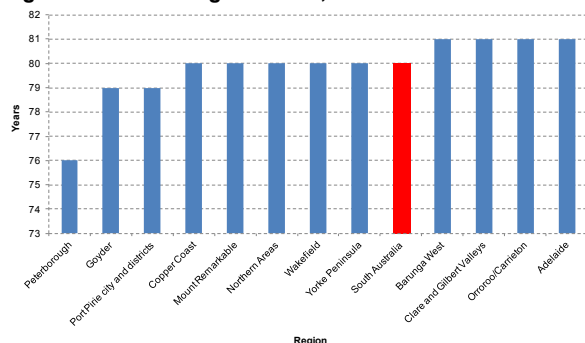
Median age at death in all LGAs in RDAYMN is similar to the South Australian average (80 years) and metropolitan Adelaide (81 years).

Figure 15: Learning or earning
Per cent of 15 to 19 year olds either working or studying, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 16: Median age at death, 2003 to 2007



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

About the Yorke Peninsula and Mid North regional plan

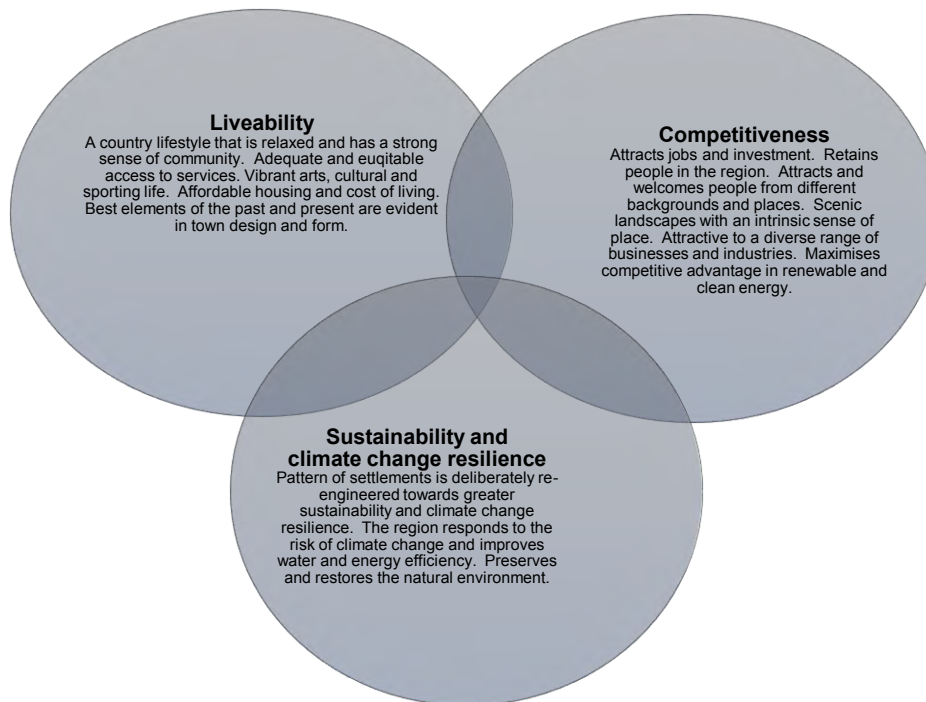
The Yorke Peninsula regional plan and the Mid North regional plan sets out the objectives of both regions, helping state and local governments to plan for the provision of essential services and infrastructure and guide sustainable economic development and land use.

The plan supports the achievement of a range of economic, social and environmental goals and is closely aligned to South Australia's State Strategic Plan, such that achieving regional goals and targets supports the achievement of state-wide objectives. In addition, regional plans tie into state-wide plans for infrastructure, housing, water, natural resources management, waste management and South Australia's economic statement.

The plan has three overlapping objectives representing sustainable community development; these objectives are classified as; social, economic or environmental,

- Social - to maintain and improve liveability
- Economic - to increase competitiveness
- Environmental - to drive sustainability and resilience to climate change

Figure 5: Objectives of the regional volumes of the South Australian planning strategy



Source: Mid North Regional Plan, May 2011, Volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy.

Region at a glance⁴⁸

The RDAYMN region covers an area of 34,883 square kilometres comprising eleven local government areas and one unincorporated area.

Local government areas:

- Barunga West;
- Clare and Gilbert Valleys;
- Copper Coast;

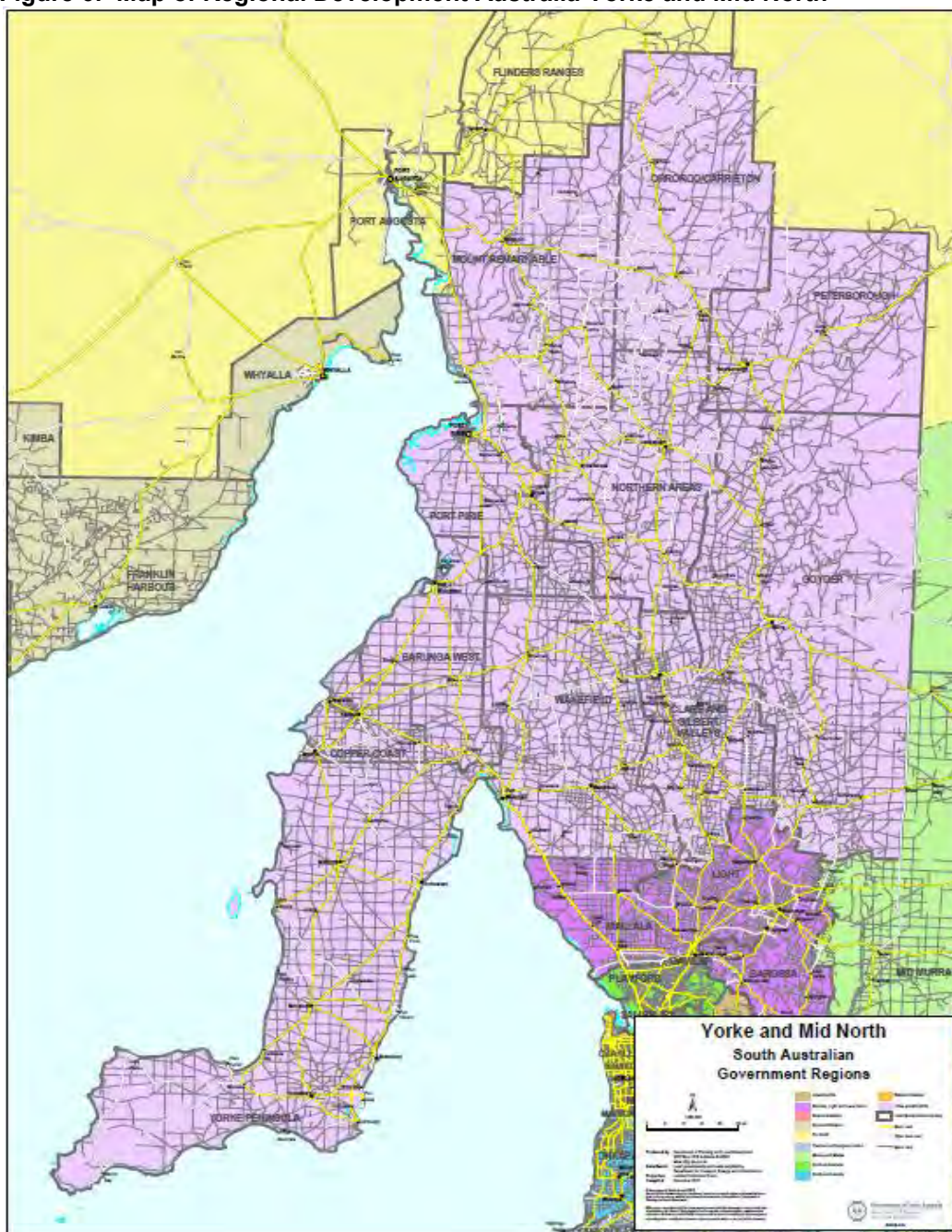
⁴⁸ Descriptions, facts and key issues relating to the RDA Yorke and Mid North region are sourced from the Regional Roadmap 2011-2013, the Mid North Region Plan (May 2011) and Yorke Peninsula Regional Land Use Framework (December 2007).

- Goyder;
- Mount Remarkable;
- Northern Areas;
- Orroroo Carrieton;
- Peterborough;
- Port Pirie;
- Wakefield; and
- Yorke Peninsula.

Unincorporated area:

- Unincorporated Yorke.

Figure 6: Map of Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North



Source: Department of Planning and Local Government of South Australia.

Facts about the Yorke and Mid North region

- Has an estimated resident population of 76,549 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate).
- Has an agricultural based economy focused on viticulture, primary production of field crops and emerging agricultural activities such as hay and livestock processing, intensive farming, animal husbandry and horticulture.
- Contains the Provincial City of Port Pirie with an estimated resident population of 12,300 (ABS, 2012, preliminary estimate), economic activity in the city depends on production from its silver, lead and zinc smelters.
- Is a popular tourist destination for South Australians attracting one million visitors annually.
- Contains several important sea ports at Wallaroo, Ardrossan, Port Giles and Klein Point used to export local produce such as grain.

Box 1: Additional information about Yorke and Mid North

- Contains extensive grape vineyards around the Clare Valley which is recognised as a premium wine growing region.
- Has a large seasonal workforce because of the predominance of industries such as agriculture, viticulture and hospitality.
- Has approximately half of the State's wind energy capacity with potential for further development of geothermal and wave energy.
- Has a growing mining industry with a number of companies exploring the Yorke Peninsula for gold and copper.

Source: Skills for Jobs, The Training and Skills Commission's Five Year Plan for Skills and Workforce Development, 2011.

Key Issues for the region

Workshops held with representatives of councils the Natural Resource Management Board, Regional Development Board and various State Government departments identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regards to future land use and development. Together these issues can be grouped under four themes, (A) environment and culture, (B) economic development, (C) population and settlements and (D) infrastructure and services.

Underlying each theme are principles and policies (e.g., as in A: Climate Change) to help realise the region's vision and full potential. Issues, challenges, opportunities and barriers highlighted in the RDAYMN Regional Roadmap are grouped under each of the four themes and commentary is drawn from the RDA Roadmap (as in A.1, A.2, B.1 etc).

A. Environment and culture – Principles and policies

- *Recognise and protect the region's environmental assets;*
- *Ensure efficient use of water and energy;*
- *Protect people, property and the environment from exposure to hazards;*
- *Ensure management of waste, wastewater and stormwater;*
- *Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance and desired town character; and*
- *Create the conditions for the region to adapt and become resilient to climate change.*

A.1 Climate change – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Reduced future availability of potable water caused by declining rainfall and higher evaporation rates putting urban water security at risk.
- Adverse impacts on the region's wine industry due to shrinking fertile areas suitable for growing grapes around the Clare Valley caused by declining rainfall.
- Adverse impacts on the local seafood industries, especially the local prawn industry, caused by rising sea temperatures and ocean acidity levels.
- Significant costs to agriculture in the form of increased pest plants, animals and diseases and costs to tourism in the form of lost eco-tourism amenity value.
- Need for agricultural and fishing industries to adopt new management practices to mitigate against the effects of changing climatic conditions.

A.2 Water – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Current water resources have already reached or are reaching their sustainable limits as outlined in the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Plan (2009).
- Major water users (as identified in the Tonkin report) include viticulture, agriculture, mineral processing, general industry, municipal watering, tourist facilities and domestic users.
- Planned population expansion combined with additional commercial and industrial development will require alternative sources of water including: reuse of wastewater and urban storm water, small scale desalination and domestic rainwater capture; to supplement the current use of surface and groundwater systems.
- Fourteen projects are now currently being planned or implemented to reuse stormwater.
- River and creek systems are in poor condition and overuse of water resources is resulting in falling groundwater levels and rising salinity.
- Better use of water resources requires a change in human behaviour requiring education on the value of water saving.

B. Economic development – Principles and policies

- *Provide serviced and well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand;*
- *Retain and support ongoing defence industries operations;*
- *Retain and strengthen the economic potential of high quality agricultural land;*
- *Expand intensive livestock production and processing between Snowtown and Hamley Bridge;*
- *Strengthen local aquaculture and fishing industries;*
- *Safeguard mineral resources and encourage further exploration and mining;*
- *Reinforce the region as a preferred coastal and nature-based tourist destination*
- *Focus commercial development in key towns and ensure it is well-sited and designed;*
- *Realise efficiencies in waste management and foster the resource recovery industry; and*
- *Foster alternative energy and water supply industries.*

B.1 Renewable energy – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- The region has four operational wind farms possessing half the state's wind power generation capacity, a fifth wind farm is under construction and two are proposed.
- Licenses for geothermal „hot rocks“ energy exploration extend from the regions of Wakefield, Barunga West and Port Pirie districts to Mintaro and Hallett, seven geothermal wells are located in the region.
- Coastal areas of Yorke Peninsula are suited to wave energy power generation.

B.2 Mining – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Principal mining activities include extraction of limestone, dolomite, gypsum and sand.
- Although mining remains small in terms of contribution to gross regional product and employment, extensive minerals exploration and a number of new start up mines will increase the contribution and importance of mining over the next several years.
- Growth of the resources sector in the adjacent Flinders Ranges and Far North will have flow on effects for the Yorke and Mid North requiring skilled labour in the construction and operation of mines.
- The Yorke Peninsula is strategically located with potential to become a mineral processing centre and port of export for ore and concentrate extracted in surrounding regions.

B.3 Tourism – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Visitors are drawn to coastal towns on the Yorke Peninsula, the Clare Valley and Flinders Ranges by natural tourist experiences and close proximity to Adelaide (2 to 3 hours by car).
- Most visitors are intrastate tourists travelling from other parts of South Australia; only a small share of tourists comes from interstate and overseas.
- Improving tourist experiences to encourage greater tourist traffic relies on further development of tours, accommodation, restaurants, events and raising consumer awareness of the regions attractions both domestically and internationally.

B.4 Agriculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Agricultural land is suited to broad acre farming and supports large scale food processing and food value-adding of seafood, poultry, organic food, legumes, pulses, grains and oil seeds.
- Although rainfall and climatic conditions are suited to agriculture there is scarcity of fresh water resources, inhibiting diversification into water intensive crops and leaving current producers vulnerable in times of drought.
- Over the last ten years agriculture has shifted from broad acre farming into new sectors such as animal husbandry, feed lots, horticulture and wine production, reducing reliance on traditional grain crops as the main source of economic activity.
- Viticulture is confined to 260 grape growers in the Clare Valley; some grape production occurs in the Southern Flinders Ranges although the industry in this region is still in its infancy.
- The recent drought has forced some farmers to exit the industry and encouraged the consolidation of ownership of farms and vineyards reducing the number of smaller farms.

- Skilled agricultural workers are in short supply because of changing technology, high training delivery costs, a shortage of experienced trainers and lack of an established training culture.

B.5 Aquaculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Oysters have been commercially grown in the region for a number of years, although the industry remains small comprising approximately thirty operations.
- Potential exists for further expansion of aquaculture across a broader range of seafoods.

B.6 Forestry – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- The region accounts for approximately one per cent of Forestry SA's timber production and supports 50 local jobs, timber is harvested from two primary reserves at Wirrabara and Bundaleer and four smaller reserves at Yarcowie, Leighton, Crystal Brook and Redhill.
- Viability of forestry plantations is reduced by the small scale, isolation from major markets, adverse growing conditions and competition from the building industry timber sector.

C. Population and settlements – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- *Reinforce the role, functionality and vibrancy of towns and settlements;*
- *Strategically plan and manage township growth, with coastal areas a priority;*
- *Design towns to provide safe, healthy, accessible and appealing environments; and*
- *Provide residential land to enable a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors.*

C.1 Population – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The majority of residents live in large regional centres including Port Pirie, Kadina, Moonta, Clare and Wallaroo or smaller town centres with one to two thousand people.
- Approximately 30,000 residents are dispersed across remote settlements and rural centres containing less than 1,000 people.
- The South Australian State Strategic Plan (2007) and Yorke and Mid North Regional Planning Strategy (August 2010) notionally commits to a population growth target of 25,000 additional people or 925 additional people per year up to 2036.
- Key target groups include, „Tree and Sea changers“ (retirees), „Returning Locals“ (former residents moving back to the region), „Opportunity Seekers“ (those looking for a different lifestyle or change in employment) and „Following Partners“ (joining family members already in the region).
- Between 2001 and 2006 all local government areas recorded positive net movement of people to the region except for Peterborough (losing 52 residents) and Orroroo/Carrieton (no change).
- The Indigenous population is concentrated around Port Pirie, the Copper Coast and Port Pearce settlement comprising two per cent of the total population. The Indigenous demographic profile is characterised by a high birth rate and a skewed age profile towards younger people aged under 30 years which provides a key labour force asset if Indigenous youth are assisted into employment.

C.2 Education, skills and unemployment – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- High school completion rates and people holding university qualifications are below state averages.
- There are no universities operating in the region.
- TAFESA is the main Registered Training Organisation operating three campuses on the Yorke Peninsula and three campuses in the mid-north acting as a primary provider of education and skills training and development within the region.
- An upgrade and expansion to Clare's TAFE campus is needed to offer better quality and greater variety of courses.
- Skills shortages are most acute in retail and hospitality and trades, high wages in the mining industry has made it increasingly difficult for local employers to compete and find skilled workers.
- Improved coordination between training programs offered at the regional level and federal level is needed to allocate educational facilities and resources more efficiently.
- Skills development is driven by South Australian Works Networks linking disadvantaged people to training and jobs providing them with foundation skills and basic numeracy and literacy training.
- Five Trade Training Centres (TTC) established by the Education Revolution Program help students achieve year 12 or an equivalent qualification, providing education that is relevant and training opportunities that encourage completion of their education.
- Establishment of Trade Schools for the future (TSF) allows year 12 students greater flexibility to combine SACE studies with VET through school based apprenticeships and traineeships.
- The rate of regional unemployment is consistently lower than the state unemployment rate although the gap has narrowed in recent years, between June 2010 and June 2011 unemployment grew faster than the state average because of the effects of drought and slower overall growth in the region.
- Retail and hospitality, health and community services and manufacturing will provide the bulk of new employment opportunities.

D. Infrastructure and services provision – Principles and policies

- *Protect and build on the region's strategic freight transport, storage and processing infrastructure*

D.1 Infrastructure – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Growth in residential housing construction has been led by retirees looking for a lifestyle change and improved quality of life, resulting in the construction of new homes especially in coastal areas such as Port Vincent, Black Point, Wallaroo, Moonta and Marion Bay.
- Demand for housing will increase with the expansion of Primo Smallgoods by 200 employees and the establishment of new poultry facilities at Port Wakefield encouraging new residents to the region.
- Public transport in and out of the region is insufficient to service the large geographical spread of small townships.
- Private bus services are not financially viable leaving private coachlines as the main means of public transport in and out of the region.

- Community bus and car services are prioritised, inadequate and operate at inconvenient times during the day excluding many residents from using the service for travel to and from work.
- New wind farm developments are under consideration or being constructed to support base load power generation capacity currently supplied by gas and coal.
- Current natural gas pipeline infrastructure is insufficient to meet the demands of new developments in Port Pirie and Whyalla, duplication of the existing pipe from Whyte Yarcowie is required costing \$45 to \$50 million.
- Large businesses are discouraged from investing in the region because costs associated with joining the national electricity transmission network in regional towns are prohibitive.
- Fourteen water reuse infrastructure projects are planned or underway to capture and reuse storm and wastewater.
- Broadband internet infrastructure is limited, lack of coverage requires most residents to rely on slower dial-up connections and approximately 50 per cent of residents have no internet connection.

Major projects

The following section contains a list of major projects in the RDAYMN region which have been approved, are in progress or are under consideration as outlined in the South Australian government's Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Yorke Peninsula

Project title:	Hillside Copper Project
Organisation:	Rex Minerals Limited
Project details:	Located 12 km south of Ardrossan on the Yorke Peninsula the Hillside Copper Project resource is estimated at 1.5 million tonnes of copper and 1.4 million ounces of gold. Prefeasibility studies are scheduled for completion in mid 2012 with a Bankable Feasibility Study completed by 2013. Production is scheduled for 2015 providing feasibility studies are favourable and required permits can be obtained.
Project cost:	\$650 million to \$800 million
Estimated completion date:	June 2015
Status:	Prefeasibility study in progress
Project title:	Ardrossan West 132kV Substation Rebuild and 2 x 25 MVA Transformer Capacity increase.
Organisation:	ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details:	Current capacity of existing transformers is inadequate to meet forecast peak demand and the requirements of the South Australian Electricity Code. ElectraNet will augment connection point transformer capacity by replacing the two existing 10 MVA 132/33 kV transformers with two 25 MVA units along with other secondary systems and selected plant.
Project cost:	\$19.0 million
Estimated completion date:	June 2012
Status:	In progress

Project title: Ceres Project
Organisation: Suzlon Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Project details: Construction of up to 180 wind turbines producing 600MW. Power will be supplied to Adelaide via a submarine connection across the Gulf of St Vincent supplying enough electricity to power 225,000 homes every year saving 2,600 million litres of water had power been produced from a coal fired source. The project also involves the construction of a biomass pilot plant converting biomass into electricity and feeding into the national grid.
Project cost: \$1.3 billion
Estimated completion date: Late 2015
Status: In approval process

Project title: The Dunes, Port Hughes
Organisation: Quickview Pty Ltd
Project details: A residential and resort development surrounding a Greg Norman designed golf course. Stage 1 will be completed by 2014 at an estimated cost of \$100 million.
Project cost: \$750 million
Estimated completion date: December 2020
Status: In progress

Mid North

Project title: Hummocks Transformer Upgrade
Organisation: ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details: Replacement of two existing 10 MVA 132/33 kV transformers with two 25 MVA units and upgrade of aging equipment in switchyard.
Project cost: \$11.0 million
Estimated completion date: November 2013
Status: Pending

Project title: Clinton Coal to liquid (CTL) Project
Organisation: Syngas Limited
Project details: The Clinton Project is located 120km northwest of Adelaide and would produce 14,600 barrels of ultra clean diesel over the 30 year life of the project. Syngas has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the China National Electric Equipment Corporation (CNEEC) establishing the basis for CNEEC's provision of engineering, procurement and construction services. CNEEC will also provide access to 85 per cent of funding for the project with the remaining 15 per cent funded by Syngas.
Project cost: \$3 billion
Estimated completion date: Under review
Status: Under consideration

Project title: Barn Hill Wind Farm
Organisation: AGL Energy Limited
Project details: Proposed construction of 62 wind turbines, on-site-infrastructure, overhead export power line and new connection facility at Barn Hill Wind Farm in the Barunga Ranges.

Project cost:	\$350 million
Estimated completion date:	2014
Status:	Under consideration
Project title:	Hornsedale Wind Farm
Organisation:	Investec Bank Australian Ltd
Project details:	Development of a 300MW capacity wind farm North of Jamestown is underway. Project managers are in discussion with potential purchasers of power and renewable energy certificates.
Project cost:	\$950 million
Estimated completion date:	Mid 2014
Status:	Under development
Project title:	Mt Bryan Wind Farm (Hallet 3)
Organisation:	AGL Energy Limited
Project details:	Proposed construction of up to 33 wind turbines near Mt Bryan, on-site substation, overhead export power line and connection works at Mokota substation.
Project cost:	\$180 million
Estimated completion date:	2013
Status:	Under consideration
Project title:	Waterloo Substation Replacement
Organisation:	ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details:	Replace aging equipment at the Waterloo Substation site and install two new transformers to increase capacity.
Project cost:	\$41.0 million
Estimated completion date:	November 2013
Status:	Under consideration
Project title:	Robertstown Wind Farm
Organisation:	TRUenergy
Project details:	Proposed development of an 80-MW wind farm, number of turbines yet to be determined.
Project cost:	\$250 million (estimated)
Estimated completion date:	Not available
Status:	Under consideration
Project title:	Snowtown Wind Farm Stage 2
Organisation:	TrustPower Australia Holdings Pty Ltd
Project details:	Proposed development of a 220MW wind farm with approximately 100 wind turbines and a 28km 275 kV electrical connection into the national power grid near Snowtown 140km north of Adelaide.
Project cost:	\$550 million
Estimated completion date:	2014
Status:	Under consideration
Project title:	Stony Gap Wind Farm
Organisation:	TRUenergy
Project details:	Proposed development of a 100MW wind farm at Stony Gap near Burra, with number of turbines yet to be determined.
Project cost:	\$350 million (estimated)
Estimated completion date:	Not available
Status:	Under consideration

Project title: The Bluff Wind Farm (Hallet 5)
Organisation: AGL Energy Limited
Project details: Construction of 25 turbines overhead export power line and connection works at ElectraNet's Belalie substation
Project cost: \$118 million
Estimated completion date: End 2011
Status: In progress

Project title: Wakefield Water Pipeline
Organisation: SA Water & Wakefield Regional Council
Project details: Construction of a 47km mains water pipeline from the Upper Wakefield Storage, located west of Auburn through Balaklava and Bowmans to Port Wakefield.
Project cost: \$30.1m
Estimated completion date: June 2014
Status: Funding confirmed from Commonwealth, awaiting State contribution

Port Pirie

Project title: Bungama Second 275/132 kV Transformer.
Organisation: ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Project details: Proposed installation of a second transformer at Bungama substation to ensure service standards in the Bungama, Baroota and Port Pirie areas continue to meet the requirements of the Electricity Transmission Code.
Project cost: \$10.0 million
Estimated completion date: November 2015
Status: Under consideration

Project title: Port Pirie GP Plus Health Care Centre
Organisation: SA Health
Project details: Construction of GP Plus Health Care Centre in Port Pirie
Project cost: \$12.5 million
Estimated completion date: June 2013
Status: 2011-12 Capital Investment Statement

Table 4: South Australian local government capital expenditure for 2011/12

Council	Local government expenditure 2011/12 (\$)
District Council of Barunga	1,365,000
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	4,785,000
District Council of Copper Coast	361,000
Goyder Regional Council	8,350,000
District Council of Mount Remarkable	5,170,000
Northern Area Council	7,500,000
District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton	1,194,000
District Council of Peterborough	1,751,000
Port Pirie Regional Council	7,500,000
Wakefield Regional Council	4,607,000
District Council of Yorke Peninsula	Not Available

Source: South Australian Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Appendix A

Selected Statistics: Labour market outcomes

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North

Population	RDA Yorke and Mid North	% of State Total	South Australia
Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2010	76,549	4.7%	1,644,582
Net Change in ERP 2009 to 2010	693	-	20,992
Rate of Population Change (%)	0.9%	-	1.3%
% of Total Population			
Youth (15-24)	8,061	10.5%	13.6%
Mature (45-64)	22,509	29.4%	26.3%
Aboriginal – Census 2006	1,308	1.8%	1.7%
People with a disability (15-64) – Census 2006	1,811	4.2%	2.7%
Labour Force (Dept of Education & Workplace Relations: March 2011)			
Total Employed	32,053	-	812,100
Total Unemployed	1,394	-	47,200
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	-	5.5%
Participation Rate (June 2010)	54.9%	-	62.7%
% of Total Employment			
Industry Employment (Census 2006)			
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5,708	20.4%	4.7%
Retail Trade	3,903	14.0%	14.7%
Health and Community Services	3,380	12.1%	12.7%
Manufacturing	2,736	9.8%	13.2%
% of Total Population (15 years and older)			
Qualifications (Census 2006)			
Degree or higher	3,573	6.2%	13.0%
Diploma	2,526	4.4%	6.5%
Certificate Level III or IV	8,261	14.4%	14.3%
% of State Total			
Training (NCVER 2009)			
VET Students	6,199	5.1%	121,851
Students reporting Disability	7.6%	-	6.2%
Aboriginal Students	3.9%	-	3.6%
Commencing Apprentices and Trainees (2008)	907	4.1%	21,960

Source: data extracted from Workforce Wizard, DFEEST, November 2011.

Appendix B

2011 Resources and Energy Infrastructure Demand Study

Background

The Resources and Energy Infrastructure Council (RESIC) engaged Parsons Brinckerhoff to undertake an infrastructure demand Study (IDS) across the South Australian resources and energy sector in 2011. The aim of the project was to enhance understanding of forecast infrastructure needs i.e., road, rail, ports, water, telecommunications, power and gas in the resources sector over the next ten years.

A detailed online survey was administered to 83 companies active in the mining, petroleum and gas sectors the responses of which formed the basis of projected infrastructure demand and recommendations made to RESIC for their consideration. Of the 32 companies responding, they accounted for 42 projects in or within proximity to South Australia, representing a total capex of \$59 billion excluding the proposed BHP Olympic Dam expansion. Most projects were geographically positioned on the Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and Upper North. A summary of the findings relating to future infrastructure demand for these regions over the period 2011-2021 for 24 of the most significant projects is shown below.

Results:

Infrastructure	South Australian Infrastructure demand overview
Electricity	Peak energy demand will increase from 300MW to 1,200 MW, Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula comprise most of the increase, additional energy will be sourced from the grid with the remainder generated from natural gas or diesel fuel.
Water	Demand for water will increase from 40GL to over 170GL per annum by 2021, Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula comprise most of the increase, most demand will be satisfied by desalinated ground water and desalinated sea water.
Gas	Demand for gas will increase from 10TJ per day to 200TJ per day sourced from gas transmission pipelines; Yorke Peninsula comprises most of the additional demand.
Telecommunications	Mobile, broadband and satellite related telecommunications infrastructure is required by most companies in the three major study regions.
Road	Companies will require a mixture of new sealed and unsealed roads for inbound freight such as processing materials, equipment and fuel and outbound freight carried by heavy haul vehicles, Eyre Peninsula and the Upper North accounted for the most inbound and outbound tonnages.
Rail	Several companies indicated they will use rail for inbound and outbound freight, Yorke Peninsula and the Upper North account for most inbound and outbound tonnages.
Ports	Several companies indicated they will consider using a new port, outbound operations would include the use of cape size and panamax size vessels requiring a deep sea port, on the Eyre Peninsula companies indicated they would use the existing Port Spencer port facility, several companies also indicated port facilities were needed on the Yorke Peninsula.
Airports	The number of flights will rise from 800 per annum in 2013 to 1,800 per annum in 2021, three new airports and one new helipad have been highlighted as required.

Source: 2011 Resources and Energy Infrastructure Demand Study, Volume 1.

Recommendations

Findings from the infrastructure demand study resulted in the following recommendations to the South Australian government regarding infrastructure.

Recommendation	Comment
Recommendation 1	The South Australian Government should facilitate the development of infrastructure corridors and utility hubs through a master planning process, to identify and clarify the associated infrastructure planning policy, regulatory and commercial issues associated with the corridors and utility hubs identified through the Infrastructure Demand Study (IDS).
Recommendation 2	The South Australian Government should facilitate the development of three new deep sea ports that are able to be served by appropriate road and rail infrastructure, sufficient to support the future development of minerals and energy projects in South Australia.
Recommendation 3	A nominated case manager should be appointed to work with local mineral resource companies, with Australian Energy Regulator (AEG) and with ElectraNet, to assist in accelerating (ahead of the current 2018 AEG statutory approval) 275kV augmentation on Eyre Peninsula by the end of 2016, or earlier if this timeframe is appropriate to meet mining industry needs.
Recommendation 4	The Department for Water (DFW) should undertake detailed mapping to identify ground water resources and potential extractable volumes at key identified areas in South Australia. As a priority the key area of the Eyre Peninsula, is to be finalised by December 2012. This is crucial to allow identification of sustainable water supply solutions for future resources projects in the region.
Recommendation 5	The Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy (DMITRE) work with geographically grouped resources and energy project proponents to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with making companies' infrastructure projects investor ready; • Assist in packaging investment ready information for prospective investors; and • Assist in connecting investment ready packages and resources and energy project proponents with likely infrastructure investors.

Source: Consultation Paper February 2012, RESIC recommendations to the South Australian Government.

Appendix C

Port Augusta Learning Precinct

The development of a whole of town approach, Port Augusta Learning Precinct, is concerned with the ways in which the organisation of education, child protection and primary health service provision, at the level of the local community, can be structured to meet the changing needs of children and young people. Some of the concerns about how to best meet the community's needs, how to arrive at a more equitable distribution of resources, and how to establish effective localised decision making. The recent changes within the department, DECD, are leading to an integrated services approach in an effort to provide better services to children, young people and families. The formation of linked "Community Hubs" each with areas of specialisation and integrated services will be a central structures within the Port Augusta Learning Precinct (Learning Precinct). The Port Augusta Learning Precinct will be formed as a self-governing entity, through a process of consultation and development, approved by DECD and built around a strategic plan on the following grounds:

1. Education validity;
2. Feasibility;
3. Maximum sharing, in the use of resources and facilities; and
4. Strong support, of the community and local DECD personnel.

Although changing structures does not change the working culture within them, we believe that the Learning Precinct will provide a strong impetus for changing the traditional relationships and management practices. The concept of a learning precinct which allows for innovative integrated service solutions tailored to our local circumstances is designed to provide pathways to improvement in child development and student outcomes regardless of the mix and complexity of the community's needs.

Previous super department structures attempted to develop 'whole of government' integration but relied heavily on the goodwill of the individuals however the inevitability of larger agencies swallowing up small specialised agencies was a feature that emerged. A commitment by agency leaders in Port Augusta to provide an opportunity for each part of the DECD new agency to recognise and understand the professional practice, knowledge and expertise of individuals and/or teams within the Port Augusta DECD context will be a key part of the Learning Precinct. Previous systems were also designed for a very different social and economic world and there is a general agreement by the current leadership group that it no longer meets the more complex social needs and learning needs of Port Augusta's children and young people. The DECD leadership within Port Augusta has a genuine respect for each other's business, a growing understanding of the expertise and skills contained within each sub agency, a growing awareness of the new DECD agenda and a willingness to take a different approach to localised integrated service delivery.

All research into Port Augusta points to the need for a different approach in response to the changing demographics and new cultures that shape our local system in an increasingly complex, global world. The increasing breakdown of the family unit, as well as changing economic and employment conditions are exacerbating poverty and disadvantage, particularly in regional centres such as Port Augusta. These changes have been aggravated by the increasing prevalence of substance abuse, sexual abuse, self-harm and youth homelessness, particularly in feeder Aboriginal communities. Combine these factors with the increasingly multi-ethnic and multilingual nature of our community and the influence of new technologies, social media and mass media on young people, and it is inevitable that a

new approach to child development and education in Port Augusta is required for all children and young people.

Children and young people should be grouped not only to meet their social and transitional needs but also accordingly to their pedagogical and curriculum requirements. In various stages of development and schooling, children and students have different learning expectations and there should be a different focus in both pedagogy and curriculum at each stage.

Within the design of the new Port Augusta Learning Precinct is the network of community hubs which seeks to account for the distinctive social, curricular and pedagogical needs, at the various stages of child development and schooling. It also recognises that these stages are part of a learning continuum that commences at birth and continues into adulthood and old age. Preschools and Schools are no longer only preparing children and young people for a particular occupation or vocation. They are developing them as lifelong learners so they can productively engage with changing times as thoughtful, active, responsive and committed local, national and global citizens.

It is recognised that the development of the Port Augusta Learning Precinct will need both a degree of local autonomy and DECD support to determine the mix of child development and school organisation and structures best suited to meet the needs of their clients, within the context of the Community Hubs proposed in this design brief. Because it is possible that major stakeholders, for example some principals or community leaders, may be more focussed on their own local constituency than on the greater picture of the collaborative whole, the development and implementation of the precinct should be supported by an outside consultant/champion.

The need for an integrated service approach is crucial to the development of the precinct. This needs to be coordinated at two levels

- Departmental – CE to work with other government department heads and services to develop a mechanism to generate plans and commitment to them.
- Delivery – those responsible for local DECD service delivery will work with local representatives and other agencies, and with community members, to develop a group or mechanism to manage local coordination.

Once a basic set of partnerships is agreed upon an initial implementation group will be formed consisting of relevant DECD staff working with the current principals and preschool directors, with community leaders and representatives of existing School Governing Councils. This group will then be responsible for the implementation process, as defined in the plan, which will require extensive community consultation. DECD will need to position itself to be able to provide support required for the precinct planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Community Hubs

The development of each of the Community Hub initiatives requires a baseline data gathering process across the new agency and community including, infrastructure audits, a detailed assessment of related programs and the funding of the programs across the community, and a full costing of current schooling provision and the cost of implementing the various Community Hubs, site by site. This profiling should also address the current local provision of alternative programs designed to re-engage those young people who have disengaged from mainstream schooling. These programs may or may not be funded by

DECD or may be funded by the commonwealth and thus this profile must identify how each of these programs relates to ongoing services and structures.

An analysis of existing resources with an assessment of those that can more effectively be directed to other programs within the precinct by consolidating functions and eliminating duplication should also be considered as part of this exercise.

Child Development Community Hub

It is anticipated that a Child Development Community Hub can be formed relatively quickly, particularly if the current levels of resourcing and support are maintained. The co-located Carlton Aboriginal School and the Port Augusta Children Centre presents an early opportunity for an innovative approach to integrate Children and Family Health Services, Early Childhood and Care Services, preventative Child Protection Services, Child and Mental Health Services and non-government service providers in a single space. Added to this is a call from the Aboriginal community, Urban Regional Strategy, for better service provision particularly in the early childhood sector. With just over 330 preschool children in Port Augusta, 50 per cent Aboriginal, the development of an Child Development hub with fully integrated services presents as a major initiative within the town. The Community Hub would offer a full range of child development programs including, playgroups, childcare, parent learning together programs, health checks and screening, immunisations, family counselling, General Practice, mental health services, nutrition programs and advice and a range of preschool programs.

Secondary School Community Hub

There is also opportunity to develop a Community Hub around the Port Augusta Secondary School. The development of the Youth Engagement Centre, Trade Training Facility (specialisation in mining) and concentration on academic pathways ensures that many student needs are being addressed. Further integration of other youth and health related services including stronger transitional arrangements and changes to schooling structures will position Port Augusta Secondary School as another important Community Hub and the secondary school provider of choice.

There is no consistency between the various state and territory education systems in Australia in relation to when each particular stage of secondary schooling starts or finishes. Efforts to introduce a uniform transfer point have been frustrated largely because of cost, but a push by the Commonwealth government towards national consistency in schooling ages will eventually lead to an agreed point of transition from primary to secondary. Given that the most heavily populated states have Year 7 in high school, it is more likely that this will be the nationally agreed transition point. South Australia and Western Australia are the only states with Year 7 in primary school. The transition of year 7 to secondary school will provide alignment and the creation of community hubs around primary stages of schooling.

Appendix D

Thinking About Regional Economic Growth

SACES considered the role of the three 'Ps' in its Strategic Review of South Australia Works program⁴⁹ and how labour market programs needed to adjust to the new economic realities.

Participation: near full employment has shifted the focus of labour market programs from addressing high rates of unemployment to a sharper focus on addressing skills shortage, the need to increase workforce participation rates, assistance for those who are most disadvantaged and who experience multiple barriers to employment, and highlighted the importance of the replacement demand for labour.

Population: the changing demographic profile and the ageing of the workforce have elevated the importance of retention in the labour force, upskilling, skilled migration and improvements in pathways into employment (e.g., skill recognition, career development services).

Productivity: the knowledge based economy and emerging new industries tend to speed up the process of skills obsolescence so that the demand for new qualifications and skills is at a premium and increasing productivity of the existing workforce is a priority.

⁴⁹ SA Centre for Economic Studies (2009), "Strategic Review of *South Australia Works*", Report Number 1, Final Report. Report commissioned by the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

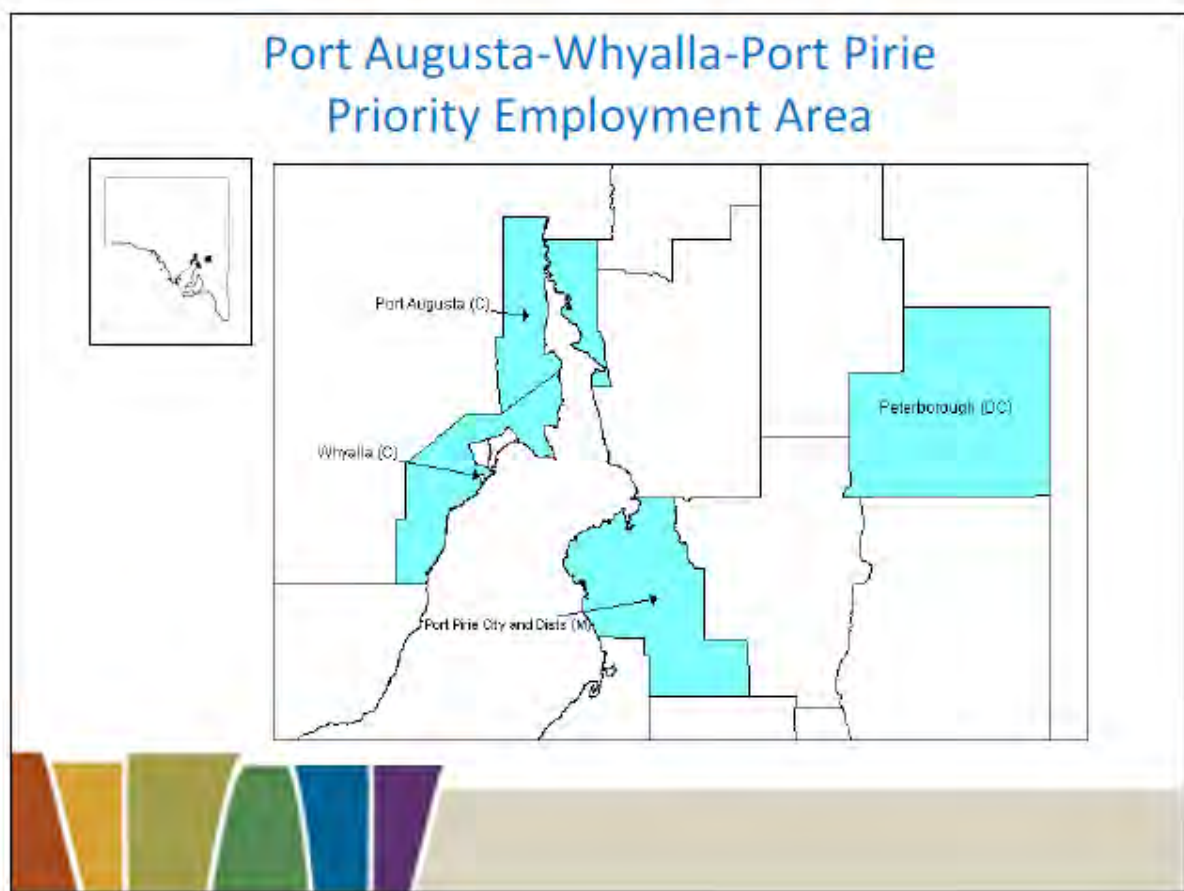
Appendix E

Region Under Study

Overview of the Labour Market in the Priority Employment Area⁵⁰

Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie is a Priority Employment Area (PEA) which comprises the following Local Government Areas (LGAs):

- Peterborough (DC);
- Port Augusta (C);
- Port Pirie City and Districts (M); and
- Whyalla (C).



- unemployment has been declining. – unemployment has declined by 2.1 percentage points in the year to June 2010 to 5.2 per cent.
- but some disparity across the region;
- indicators of disadvantage remain high. – many people remain on Centrelink Benefits – many jobless families – low levels of educational attainment.

⁵⁰ DEEWR, Port Pirie-Whyalla-Port Augusta Priority Employment Area Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences, September 2010, December 2009, All Priority Employment Area surveys conducted in the year to June 2010.

Table E.1
Adult Population Profile

Region	Adult population (2008)	Proportion of adult population (per cent)		
		Aged 65 years and over	Aged 45-64	Indigenous
Peterborough	1,634	27.0	37.0	3.0
Port Augusta	11,425	16.0	33.0	14.0
Port Pirie	14,185	23.0	33.0	2.0
Whyalla	17,984	17.0	31.0	3.0
Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA	45,228	19.0	32.0	5.0
Australia	17,256,386	16.0	31.0	2.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008), *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), *Census of Population and Housing*.

- At the time of the 2006 Census 5 per cent of residents of the Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA identified as being Indigenous. There is a large Indigenous population in Port Augusta (14 per cent of adults – 2006 ABS Census data).

Table E.2
Labour Market Profiles

Region	Unemployment Rate (June 2010) (Per cent)	Participation rate* (Per cent)
Peterborough	7.5	54.2
Port Augusta	5.6	68.9
Port Pirie	5.2	66.8
Whyalla	4.9	70.2
Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA	5.2	68.3
Australia	5.5	75.0

Note: * for working age population (ages 15-64).

Source: DEEWR, *Small Area Labour Markets*, June 2010, smoothed series; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), *Census of Population and Housing*.

The most recently available data for the region (DEEWR Small area labour markets June 2010) show that the unemployment rate for the Priority Employment Area fell by 2.1 percentage points in the year to June 2010 to stand at 5.2 per cent. This is slightly below the unemployment rate for Australia at that point in time (5.5 per cent).

- However, the June 2010 unemployment rate remains above the national average in Peterborough (7.5 per cent) and Port Augusta (5.6 per cent).

At the time of the 2006 Census a lower proportion of the working age population were participating in the labour market (68.3 per cent compared with 75.0 per cent across Australia).

Table E.3
Centrelink Recipients

Region	Per cent of the Working Aged Population		Per cent of those aged 15-24
	Receiving any Centrelink Allowance	Receiving Disability Support Pension	In receipt of an Unemployment allowance
Peterborough	45.0	19.0	11.0
Port Augusta	27.0	9.0	13.0
Port Pirie	34.0	14.0	12.0
Whyalla	29.0	10.0	12.0
Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA	30.0	11.0	12.0
Australia	18.0	5.0	5.0

Note: * of June 2008, estimated populations.

Source: DEEWR, administrative data, September 2010; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008), *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, June.

As at September 2010, a significantly higher proportion of the working age population in the priority employment area were in receipt of a Centrelink benefit compared with Australia overall (30 per cent compared to 18 per cent). This is despite the number of Centrelink beneficiaries falling by 2 per cent in the Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie priority employment area since 2009 (DEEWR administrative data).

- 45 per cent of the working age population in Peterborough are in receipt of a Centrelink benefit.

The proportion of the working age population on the Disability Support Pension in Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie priority employment area is more than double that for Australia (11 per cent compared with 5 per cent for Australia).

The proportion of young people (aged 15-24) receiving an unemployment allowance (Youth Allowance Other or New Start Allowance) is more than double that for Australia (12 per cent compared with 5 per cent).

Table E.4
Labour market outcomes for “at risk” socio-economic groups

	Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA (Per cent)		Australia (Per cent)	
	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
Youth (15-24)	15.8	63.0	10.2	66.6
Indigenous*	20.3	46.8	15.6	56.8
Lone parents*	14.9	55.3	10.3	65.7
Did not complete year 12*	10.5	62.2	6.6	68.8

Note: * for the working age population (15-64 years).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), *Census of Population and Housing*.

Some groups in the community are known to be more “at risk” or vulnerable in the labour market. People in “at risk” socio-economic groups within the priority employment area have higher unemployment rates and lower participate rates than others in the region.

The more “at risk” socio-economic groups include:

- Youth (15-24 years);
- Indigenous persons;
- Single parents; and
- Those that did not complete year 12.

Table E.5
Jobless families by LGA

Region	Proportion of all families (with children) who are jobless (Per cent)	Proportion of couple families (with children) who are jobless (Per cent)	Proportion of lone parent families who are jobless (Per cent)
Peterborough	42.0	27.0	65.0
Port Augusta	24.0	11.0	49.0
Port Pirie	28.0	14.0	59.0
Whyalla	26.0	10.0	56.0
Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA	27.0	12.0	55.0
Australia	19.0	9.0	47.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), *Census of Population and Housing*.

There is a greater proportion of jobless families in each of the Local Government Areas that make up the Priority Employment Area than for Australia. At the time of the 2006 Census:

- just over one quarter (27 per cent) of all families in the priority employment area were jobless compared with 19 per cent of families in Australia;
- the proportion of jobless families was particularly high in Peterborough;
- more than half (55 per cent) of single parent families in the Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie priority employment area were jobless, compared with 47 per cent for Australia; and
- 12 per cent of couple families, with children, were jobless compared with 9 per cent for Australia.

Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA)

The SEIFA index of relative disadvantage is derived from 2006 Census data related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment and dwellings with no car, among other things.

A low score indicates a high level of relative disadvantage. These maps show that there are many areas with high levels of disadvantage in the priority employment area, particularly on the fringes of the town centres (red areas).

The four Local Government Areas of Peterborough, Port Augusta, Port Pirie City and Districts and Whyalla had SEIFA deciles scores of 2. This indicates they were within the bottom-20 per cent most disadvantaged LGAs in Australia.

Table E.6
Educational attainment

	Proportion of working age population (aged 15 to 64 years) (Per cent)		
	Finished Year 12 or equivalent	Attained Certificate or Diploma level qualification	Attained Bachelor Degree or Higher
Peterborough (DC)	23.0	18.0	5.0
Port Augusta (C)	23.0	25.0	7.0
Port Pirie City and Districts (M)	25.0	24.0	6.0
Whyalla (C)	31.0	26.0	8.0
Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie PEA	27.0	25.0	7.0
Australia	47.0	25.0	17.0

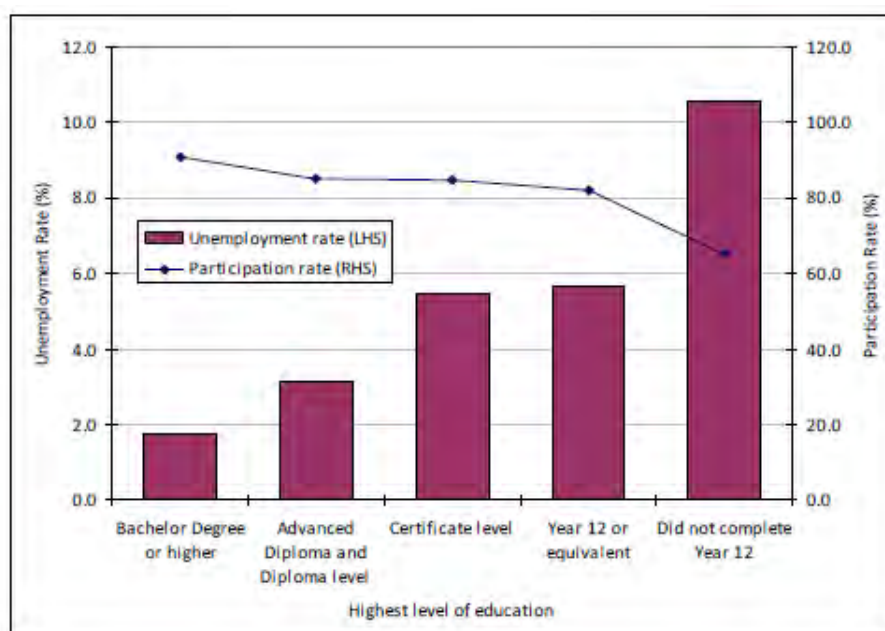
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), *Census of Population and Housing*.

All four Local Government Areas have below average levels of educational attainment.

At the time of the 2006 *Census of Population and Housing*, slightly more than one quarter (27 per cent) of the working age population in the priority employment area, had completed year 12 or equivalent, compared with nearly half (47 per cent) of the working age population of Australia.

- Only 7 per cent of the working age population had attained a Bachelor degree or higher, compared with 17 per cent for Australia.

Figure E.1
Labour force status by educational attainment



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), *Census of Population and Housing*.

The level of educational attainment is strongly linked with labour market performance and the ability of a region (or its population) to respond flexibly to an economic downturn. High levels of educational attainment, for instance, allows people to gain employment in higher skilled occupations, such as Professional, Manager and Technician

and Trades Worker occupations, which tend to be more stable, more in demand and higher paid.

Accordingly, regions with relatively low levels of educational attainment tend, on average, to be less flexible in the face of economic slowdowns and face greater labour market difficulties. For example, upon retrenchment, those with lower educational attainment will find it significantly more difficult to find subsequent employment than their more highly skilled counterparts.

As can be seen in this chart, those people in the priority employment area with relatively high levels of education perform better in the labour market, with higher labour force participation rates and lower unemployment rates, compared with those with lower levels of educational attainment.

Table E.7
Unemployment and participation rate

	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
Bachelor degree or higher	1.7	90.7
Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level	3.1	85.3
Certificate level	5.4	84.5
Year 12 or equivalent	5.7	82.1
Did not complete year 12	10.5	65.2

Employment Growth and Projections by Skill Level – Australia

- The largest increase in the number of jobs in the last five years has been in those suitable for workers with a Bachelors Degree or higher. This trend is projected to continue for the next five years (*DEEWR Trend Data, August 2010. DEEWR Employment Projections to 2014-15*)
- There is also strong employment growth projected over the next five years for jobs that require a Certificate II or III.

The Local Government Areas in the Priority Employment Area each have very different industry profiles.

Employment in the Whyalla Local Government area is heavily reliant on the Manufacturing Industry. Almost one in four people (23 per cent) were employed in this industry at the time of 2006 census, compared with 10 per cent for Australia overall.

In the Peterborough Local Government Area almost 15 per cent of people were employed in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Industry, compared with 3 per cent for Australia overall.

Compared with other regions a high proportion of workers in Port Augusta are employed in the Public Administration and Safety industry.

- 13 per cent were employed in the Public Administration and Safety industry at the time of 2006 census, compared with 7 per cent for Australia overall.

A further 15 per cent of workers were employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance at the time of 2006 census, compared with 11 per cent for Australia overall.

Employment in the Port Pirie Local Government area is also heavily reliant on the Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance Industries.

- At the time of the 2006 census, 16 per cent of workers in Port Pirie were employed in the Manufacturing industry, compared with 10 per cent for Australia overall, and a further 15 per cent of people were employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry compared with 11 per cent for Australia overall.

Table E.8
Key survey results

	Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie (Sept 2010)	Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie (Dec 2009)	All PEAs Surveyed (Year to June 2010)
Employers who recruited	63.0	65.0	65.0
Vacancies Unfilled	7.3	11.8	5.2
Experienced difficulty recruiting staff	51.0	65.0	51.0

Source: DEEWR, *Port Pirie-Whyalla-Port Augusta Priority Employment Area Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences*, September 2010, December 2009, All Surveys year to June 2010.

- DEEWR conducted a telephone survey of employers in the Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie Priority Employment Area in September 2010. The results reflect responses of 169 local employers, of whom 70 per cent also responded to the December 2009 survey of the region.

In September 2010, results for Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie showed that:

- The proportion of employers who recruited in the past 12 months (63 per cent) is broadly in line with results for the region from the December 2009 survey and the overall result for all Priority Employment Areas surveyed in the year to June 2010 (65 per cent).
- The proportion of vacancies remaining unfilled (7.3 per cent) was lower than the December 2009 result for the Priority Employment Area (11.8 per cent) but higher than all Priority Employment Areas surveyed in the year to June 2010 (5.2 per cent).
- Just over half (51 per cent) of employers said that recruitment was 'difficult in the past 12 months which is in line with all Priority Employment Areas surveyed in the year to June 2010, but down on the 65 per cent of employers who said that recruitment was difficult in December 2009.

Unfilled Vacancies by Major Occupation Category

There was a decline in the proportion of vacancies (most recent recruitment round) that remained unfilled at the time of the survey (7.3 per cent) compared with the December 2009 result (11.8 per cent).

- The proportion of vacancies remaining unfilled was higher than the result for all priority employment areas surveyed in the year to June 2010 (5.2 per cent).

- A high proportion of vacancies for Technicians and Trades Workers (16.7 per cent) remained unfilled.
- This table lists occupations for which employers most commonly indicated that they had difficulty filling vacancies.
- A number of Trades positions were commonly mentioned as being difficult to fill including Motor Mechanics, Structural Steel and Welding Tradespersons and Chefs.
- Local employers also reported difficulties recruiting for some occupations which require less training including Bar Attendants and Baristas, Sales Assistants and Kitchen Hands

Table E.9
Occupations difficult to fill

Bachelor Degree or Higher VET Qualifications	Other Occupations
Registered Nurses	Bar Attendants and Baristas
Chefs	Sales Assistants
Hairdressers	Kitchen Hands
Motor Mechanics	Labourers
Structural Steel and Welding Trades Persons	

Source: DEEWR, *Port Pirie-Whyalla-Port Augusta Priority Employment Area Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences*, September 2010.

Job Applicants

There was an average of 5.3 applicants per vacancy in Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie, of whom an average of 1.8 were considered to be 'suitable' by employers.

- This compares with 8.4 applicants and 2.5 suitable applicants across all Priority Employment Areas surveyed in the 12 months to June 2010.
- The average number of applicants and suitable applicants per vacancy in the Port Augusta- Whyalla-Port Pirie priority employment area was slightly higher in September 2010 than was the case in December 2009 (an average of 4.7 applicants and 1.7 applicants suitable).

There were high applicant numbers for Sales positions while average applicant numbers were lower for vacancies in the Labourers and Tradespersons and Technicians occupation groups.

Reasons Applicants Unsuitable

Almost two thirds of job applicants (65 per cent) were regarded by employers as being unsuitable for the job in which they had applied.

The most common reasons employers considered applicants unsuitable included:

- Inadequate technical skills or expertise;
- Insufficient experience;
- Poorly written application; and
- Basic employability skills (such as having a poor attitude, lacking in basic work readiness skills, or poor personal presentation).

Basic Employability Skills

Survey results indicate that in today's labour market jobs seekers need to have both technical or job-specific skills and basic employability skills.

- 35 per cent of recruiting employers placed importance on personality traits and qualities only;
- 16 per cent of employers placed importance on technical skills only; and
- 49 per cent of employers placed importance on both personality traits and technical skills.

Personality traits and qualities that employers most commonly said that applicants were most lacking in:

- Confidence (mentioned by 19 per cent of employers)
- Communication (17 per cent)
- Motivation (15 per cent)
- Enthusiasm (14 per cent)
- Presentation (10 per cent)

Table E.10
Apprentices and trainees

	Proportion of Employers (Per cent)		
	Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie (Sept 2010)	Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie (Dec 2009)	All PEAs Surveyed (Year to June 2010)
Employed an Apprentice/Trainee in past 12 months	35.0	30.0	34.0
Expect to recruit an Apprentice/Trainee in next 12 months	17.0	21.0	22.0
Found Employing an Apprentice/Trainee 'Challenging'.	69.0	N/A	59.0
– Most common challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack soft skills and work readiness • non-completion and retention • cost and time requirements 		

Source: DEEWR, *Port Pirie-Whyalla-Port Augusta Priority Employment Area Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences*, September 2010, December 2009, All surveys year to June 2010.

Apprentices and Trainees

- More than one third of respondents (35 per cent) employed an apprentice or trainee in the past 12 months.
- 17 per cent of employers expect to recruit an apprentice/trainee in the next 12 months.
- More than two thirds (69 per cent) of employers said that employing an apprentice or trainee was 'challenging'.
- The most common challenges associated with employing an apprentice or trainee were:
 - Apprentice/Trainee lacks soft skills or work readiness
 - Non-completion and retention
 - Cost and time requirements

Future Recruitment Expectations

Local employers held reasonably optimistic expectations about recruitment for the next 12 months:

- 43 per cent of employers said that they expected to recruit;
- 25 per cent of employers expected to increase staff numbers in their workplace; and
- Only 12 per cent of employers are uncertain about recruitment in the next 12 months.

Table E.11
Key Findings and Challenges

Unemployment rate has declined but participation is low	Job seekers need to be job ready
Still disadvantaged groups in the labour market	Work Experience
Region facing challenges	Education and training
Skills mismatch	Apprenticeships
Older population	Employability skills
But also opportunities	Further engagement with local employers
Growth industries	
Occupations difficult to fill	

A Snapshot of the Aboriginal population

The following is a summary of the situation of the Aboriginal population in Central & Far North, and Far West Region. The region comprises five areas: Port Augusta; Whyalla; Ceduna and Far West; the Central Far North (including Coober Pedy, Oodnadatta and the northern Flinders Ranges); and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. The region is larger than the coverage of the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group but the advancement of employment and training for the Aboriginal population is a priority of the USGCPG.

The population of the region (i.e., working aged 15-64 years, Census 2006) was estimated to be 46,000 with some 11 per cent or 5,000 identified as being Indigenous. The age structure differs such that approximately 33 per cent of Indigenous people were in the 15-24 age bracket compared to about 20 per cent non-Indigenous people. With a high proportion of the Indigenous population aged less than 15 years of age the Indigenous population will grow rapidly in future years. In 2006 there were 1,500 CDEP participants but in 2011 when the CDEP scheme was no longer operating in Port Augusta or Whyalla this had fallen to just over 800.

Work Readiness is not 'one size fits all' as there are some Indigenous residents of the region who have good work histories and who have been employed in the past. There are many others who are a long way from being job ready and there are many school leavers who need additional assistance to make a successful transition from school to work. The individual job seeker will experience different personal barriers to employment, differences in the severity of barriers and hence different responses are required to help achieve employment outcomes. For those who face multiple barriers to finding and keeping a job, becoming work ready will often require the assistance of a range of services. The most disadvantaged job seekers often have trouble accessing

services they need (even when they have referrals) and service coordination and the 'wrapping' of services around the individual and their family can assist.

Overall, the Indigenous population of the region has, on average, a much lower level of formal education and workplace experience than the non-Indigenous population. This is often associated with multiple and overlapping issues including alcohol and drug problems, violence issues, lack of drivers licences and mental and physical health problems. Some Indigenous job seekers lack an understanding of what is required to find and maintain paid employment. Conflicting obligations to family and community can also make it hard to find and sustain paid work.

From an employment perspective the evidence is that appropriate literacy and numeracy programs are very important as are programs and activities that teach work routines and the basic behaviours and skills which are required in the work place. It is also important to ensure that, where necessary, training and skills development is aligned to the requirements of entry level jobs. Projects that seek to engage Aboriginal job seekers in training and employment often rely on partnerships between key employers, educational institutions and providers of Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) or other employment services. This can help to ensure that training matches the needs of both job seekers and employers.

Labour Force Participation shows that 49 per cent of Indigenous males and 41 per cent of Indigenous females in the region were employed (Census 2006) and this compares to 77 per cent of non-Indigenous males and 66 per cent of non-Indigenous females. Excluding CDEP employment, then the rate for Indigenous males falls to a very low 11 per cent and for females just 17 per cent. Notwithstanding current employment and participation rates, there are real and significant employment opportunities emerging across the region as result of general economic conditions, changes in the demographic profile of the population, new industries and development of the mining industry including flow-on indirect employment and growth in employment in the community services sector, including tourism.

Labour Supply and Training

In addition to South Australia Works programs and ACE Literacy and Numeracy providers and programs that provide pre-employment training in foundational skills such as driver's licence training, drug and alcohol awareness training, skills development through work experience there are Commonwealth programs such as Language Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP), Workplace English Language and Literacy Program (WELL) and approved money management courses such as Money Business. The CDEP Resources Unit, based in Ceduna, aims to assist CDEP providers in accessing appropriate training for participants including a focus on literacy and numeracy programs. JSA providers also play a role in accessing training programs.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector provides for entry level positions up to Cert 4 courses and has historically worked very closely with state and Commonwealth labour market providers and programs.

Table E.12
Industries with Current Training and Prospects of Employment Growth

OZ Minerals, Prominent Hill	Pre-employment programs since 2006, trade based
Iluka-Jacinth near Ceduna	Pre-employment, semi and skilled jobs
BHP-B, Olympic Dam	Pre-employment, trade based occupations
Oz Minerals, BHP-B and local Aboriginal Trusts	Supporting scholarships and training programs for advanced positions in each company
Exact Mining Services (EMS)	One year traineeship at Certificate III
Mining Contractors	Numbers of positions with large and medium sized mining contractor firms
COAG Partnership Agreement	241 new houses, 206 housing upgrades in North and Far West of South Australia, Certificate I in construction. Employment target of 20 per cent in construction, 40 per cent tenancy management.
Housing SA	Employment of Community Housing Officers
Transfield Services and Bungalla Corporation	Continuation of Certificate III in rail infrastructure, regular recruitment by Transfield
Commonwealth's Working on Country Initiative	30 employment positions as rangers, Certificate II in Land Management
Expansion of Early Childhood Services and Aged Care Services	Will create new employment positions
Expansion of health, community and youth service workers	Will create new employment positions
Indigenous Land Corporation (APY lands)	Cattle farming, trained shearer groups in Merriman Shearing School (NSW)

TAFE is also present on the APY Lands delivering courses including Certificate I IVEC, Certificate II and III in Business, Certificate II in Community Services, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Diploma of Interpreting, and general access courses for heavy machinery (bobcat, excavator, front-end loader and forklift). The Indigenous population has a much higher rate of participation in VET than the non-Indigenous population (34 per cent compared to 12 per cent).

Higher education is available through the University of South Australia (UniSA) campus at Whyalla and the Anangu Tertiary Education Program (AnTEP) which is focused on teacher training. AnTEP tutors are available in the APY Lands, Oak Valley and Yalata and lecturers are located in the APY Lands.

The University of Adelaide is planning to offer courses in Port Augusta including an Indigenous Foundation Program and specialised courses for industry (especially mining and the health services). Higher education courses in the study region in 2011 included foundation studies, engineering, accounting, business, nursing, social work and teaching.

Table E.13
Number of Working Age and Indigenous and aged 15-24 years (per cent)

Region	Population Working Age (No.)	Indigenous (No.)	Indigenous 15-24 (Per cent)	Non- Indigenous 15-24 (Per cent)
Central Far North	6,400	500	25	15
Anangu Pitjantjatjara APY	1,600	1,312	33	12
Ceduna, Far West	13,400	900	33	15
Port Augusta	9,400	1,600	33	18
Whyalla	14,700	500	33	20

Source: CAEPR and SACES 2012 Not for Publication.

Table E.14
Comparative Employment Rate

Region	Employment Rate Indigenous (per cent)	Employment Rate Non-Indigenous (per cent)	Exclude CDEP: Indigenous rate (per cent)
Central Far North	57	81	30
Anangu Pitjantjatjara APY	48	83	10
Ceduna, Far West	50	76	5
Port Augusta	37	71	nc
Whyalla	41	65	nc

Source: CAEPR and SACES 2012 Not for Publication. Nc= not calculated after removal of CDEP in 2007

The Educational and Employment Challenge: A Summary

On average the Indigenous population of the region has relatively low levels of formal education and workplace experience with only 15 per cent of Indigenous VET students having Year 12 education or higher (48 per cent for non-Indigenous). On average they are not generally well positioned to take advantage of emerging job opportunities. It will be necessary to continue to provide programs that build foundational skills such as literacy and numeracy, to provide work experience and co-ordinate services that seek to address complex and overlapping barriers to employment participation.

However, that will not be sufficient. There are other important requirements such as Adult Community Learning programs that assist young learners and the middle aged re-engage with education and training, often while their children are still at school. Much greater effort is required to improve the school retention rate for young Indigenous students and this may require (and be supported) by engaging parents/adults in parallel learning.

This project will design measures or realistic targets to monitor progress and to gauge outcomes including improvements in literacy and numeracy scores, improvements in school retention rates, a decline in the number of days not attending school, more students completing Years 11 and 12, more students in TAFE/VET and more students doing higher certificates, participation of older groups in ACE learning programs and more Indigenous employment.

Appendix F

Programs

The Building Family Opportunities (BFO) program has selected three regions in which to implement a three year demonstration program. While the program is regionally or placed-based the BFO program is an example of an intensive case-management, people-based program designed to assist jobless families re-engage with the wider community, access education, training and support services, achieve stable and secure accommodation and ultimately, an employment outcome.

The program is focussed on long-term jobless families with children and dependents aged 24 years or less. In 2006 in Australia it is estimated there were approximately 344,000 jobless families with 544,000 children aged 0-14 years,⁵¹ and the majority of children were being raised in single parent families. It is further estimated that South Australia had the highest proportion of its child population aged less than 15 years living in jobless families. It is obvious that a prolonged state of joblessness will have negative impacts on adults and children, on health, welfare and schooling, impose costs on the State and potentially entrench intergenerational disadvantage. Long-term joblessness will impact on the ability to enter the workforce, closing access to pathways to education, training and the labour market.

Three cities were chosen for the demonstration program, one of those being the City of Port Augusta (see Table F.1). Port Augusta (with Whyalla and Port Pirie) is also a DEEWR Priority Employment Area (PEA).

There are four key principles said to underpin the Building Families Opportunities program:

- a “life-first” rather than “work-first” approach to the program;
- intensive case management to address personal issues along with other barriers to employment (e.g., skills, training);
- a partnership approach to include stakeholders from business, community, training services and the three tiers of government; and
- access to training programs with links to employment opportunities.

BFO has a focus on increasing educational attainment using intensive family case management as the principal mechanism to increase family functioning and capabilities. DFEEST is responsible for administering the implementation of the program which involves contracting to non-government organisations to deliver “high quality services to families with complex needs”. “Intensive case-management” describes that the program builds on what other agencies may have done (such as an Employment Pathway Plus under JSA) but assertively engages with participating jobless families and consistently enlists the support of other agencies, support services, etc. It implies active intervention with a clear goal of breaking the state of joblessness. The program is to target 400 long-term jobless families in the three locations over a four year funding period.

⁵¹ ABS Population Census 2006.

The program has adopted a “strengths-based approach” focussing on the identification and development of the strengths of each individual within the family (so person-centred) and the broader community and system (placed-based).

Table F.1
Characteristics

Place Based	People Based
Inequality and poverty concentrated in distressed places. Priority employment area.	City of Playford ¹ 3,856 jobless families, 4,779 children aged under 15 years; 4,567 single parent families. Port Adelaide Enfield 4,743 jobless families, 4,293 children under 15 years; 5,803 single parent families. City of Port Augusta 506 jobless families, 660 children under 15 years; 728 single parent families.
High proportion of public housing, poor quality housing stock.	Homelessness, poor quality residential housing, overcrowding.
Cultural disadvantage, discrimination, inequality.	Playford 1,830 Aboriginal people (2.6 per cent) ² . Port Adelaide Enfield 2,264 Aboriginal people (2.2 per cent). Port Augusta 2,301 Aboriginal people (16.6 per cent).
Low income, poverty, unemployment spatially concentrated.	>60 per cent on Parenting Payment, unemployment and disability payment. Individual and household median incomes below State average. High transfer payments.
Education services stretched, significant school card holders, low participation in post-school education/training	Early school leaving, low literacy and numeracy, low labour force participation, employment in lower skilled jobs, lower aspirations.
High social service demand, high government administrative employment.	Plethora of programs to compensate/address/remedy(?) inadequate private resources. Higher crime rate, contact with judicial system, unsafe communities.
Investment attraction policies, industry attraction but without sufficient attention to socio-economic realities.	Jobs may not go to existing residents, encourage inward migration for work, benefit may only be rising rents, accommodation, increase in property prices and land values. Benefits flow to those already well off.
“Public good” strategies required to assist schools, address crime rates, safe places, community infrastructure.	Transfer payments (individual payments) cannot address poor neighbourhoods. Response is for government to provide for public safety, raise quality of schools
Labour market failure Housing market failure Education market failure Income/transfer payment failure (no incentive component to support other objectives) Community co-operation, coordination and property ownership failure leads to poor relationships.	

Note: ¹ 2006 Census.

² State average 1.7 per cent.

Current Status

As at 29 February 2012 there have been 415 referrals with 94 per cent of referrals eligible to participate. Of all referrals there have been 129 closures (33 per cent) where a participant left the program (for employment, left the region, chose to disengage) so that 255 families are active participants. Most are single parent families (72 per cent) and in Port Augusta there are 33 active families, with greater than two-thirds being Aboriginal.

In total, the families and dependent children total 882 individuals; to date approximately 163 employment commencements have been achieved.

Referrals have increased over time as agencies (government and non-government learnt about the program) but it remains the fact that relatively few referrals have come from Families SA and Job Services Australia (JSA); most referrals seem to have emanated from Health, Housing SA, Youth Services and Corrections and NGO partners.

Reflections

The program is a variant on the more traditional labour engagement/labour market model. Leaving aside the more comprehensive collection of data on the individual family at commencement, reporting and monitoring to evaluate what is an experimental endeavour, the key successful elements of the program can be summarised as;

- ability to engage and retain in the program the “educationally disengaged and those with exceptional needs or complex and multiple barriers to employment”;
- the intensive and assertive intervention and support of case management methodologies;
- the requirement for the family/individual to clearly articulate their goals and objectives and progressive monitoring of steps or progress towards that goal (goal management scaling);
- attendance at courses to build a pathway to employment, so that referral to training is a critical pathway; and
- local coordination groups, leveraging support and networks.

BFO is highly focussed on the individual – identifying strengths, addressing complex barriers to employment and supporting the direction/goals that an individual wishes to achieve so that case managers are assertively supporting entry of the individual into new pathways, new relationships and experiences.

While currently an “experimental program” there is a real desire to implement the program in both Port Pirie and Whyalla and the South Australian government should commence a small scale trial in each of these two cities. Non-government organisations in each of the cities are keen to participate and it is our assessment that a program to assist jobless families is urgently required. This response should be one part of a broad range of initiatives in the region and it is necessary BECAUSE it demonstrates INNOVATION AND GOOD SOCIAL POLICY.

Appendix G

Letter of Introduction



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES



ADELAIDE & FLINDERS UNIVERSITIES

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28 November, 2011

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Dear «salutation»,

**Resourcing Education and Training for the Future
in the Upper Spencer Gulf (includes Eyre and Western Region)**

The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES) of the Adelaide and Flinders Universities is undertaking an Economic and Social Impact study of the mining industry on South Australia (now and into the future) and part of that study involves working with communities in the Upper Spencer Gulf Region to document existing regional education and training provision in the region in order to strengthen and support education and training for employment in the mining and support sectors (e.g., heavy engineering, transport and storage, export handling, tourism, retail, etc).

The growth of the mining sector, the direct employment it generates including in manufacturing, heavy engineering, transport and transport logistics, road and rail shipment and then flow-on impacts arising from consumption expenditure in food, retail, housing, entertainment, etc is expected to provide significant growth and employment opportunities for the Far-North region and the Eyre and Western region of South Australia.

This project (**Resourcing Education and Training for the Future in the Upper Spencer Gulf**) is intended to add to the stock of knowledge and understanding of what is currently provided (re. education, training and school to work transition), where there are underutilised facilities, where there are gaps and opportunities for training and subsequent employment, the potential for specific courses including those that could attract fee-paying overseas student to reside in the region and study/courses related to the mining sector (e.g., from geology through to mine site development, safety standards, mine site operations, etc). The mining sector is a substantial focus for on-going training courses, but we also include the energy sector which is taken to include wind farm developments, hot rocks, solar technology, sustainable energy generation, water requirements for the mining sector, gas fired power stations, etc.

The project will also examine the role of regional universities and the courses they offer, the TAFE/VET system of public and private suppliers, state-based labour market and training programs such as South Australia Works, Commonwealth Employment providers such as JSA, Indigenous Employment Programs (IEP), the extent of Group Training, the role of School/Business Community Partnership Brokers and those programs funded and supported by individual mining companies.

The hypothesis/the question is: how well is the Upper Spencer Gulf positioned to take advantage of new employment opportunities (i.e., now), how well are education providers meeting the challenge (i.e., what is the current throughput), what is required to maximise current opportunities for young people in the school to work transition phase of their life (recall the COAG agenda that all 15-19 years olds will need to be at school, in employment or in training in 2012, plus reforms to Indigenous Employment Programs and phase out of CDEP both of which will need to be responded to) in a systematic way.

The end product is to assist the region with information, governance structures and resources so that young people and local residents are best positioned for employment in the region.

This study is not a critique of any person, organisation or existing structures. It is about doing more for the region!

SACES staff are looking to commence the project in the next week prior to the shut-down of schools and the TAFE sector and over the next few months we will spend significant time in the region, including talking with schools and teachers, TAFE and other education providers, Indigenous representatives, local councils, companies and human resource managers, etc.

To that end we will contact you later this week and see if it possible to arrange a time for a SACES staff member to meet with you and discuss the project, to hear your views about current and future education and training issues, where there are gaps, perhaps overlap and duplication and what more needs to be done for job seekers who are disadvantaged in the labour market. In short, how best can we design a system and governance structure that helps people invest in themselves for the future.

I would be pleased if you would be kind enough to make the time available to speak with a staff member. My PA (Mrs Davina Dolman) will be in contact with you to arrange a time that suits you over the period (Tuesday the 6th December to Friday 9th of December). If you would require any further information please don't hesitate to contact the Centre on (08) 8313 5555.

Yours sincerely,

Michael O'Neil
Associate Professor and Executive Director
South Australian Centre for Economic Studies