

STATE BUDGET 2020-21

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT HON DAVID BASHAM MP MEDIA RELEASE

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More than \$1.6 billion to support regional South Australia

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing more than \$1.6 billion in new measures to support regional South Australia in the State Budget 2020-21 that will build the important infrastructure, provide better services, support economic growth and create jobs.

The State Budget 2020-21 includes over \$187 million in key measures for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions that will support regional South Australia.

These include more than \$67 million for bushfire recovery across Kangaroo Island, Adelaide Hills, Yorke Peninsula and the South East. More than \$40 million is provided to improve biosecurity including initiatives to ensure South Australia remains fruit fly free.

The Regional Growth Fund is provided with \$25 million in the State Budget 2020-21 including an extra \$10 million on top of the special one-off \$15 million stimulus round to support the economic recovery of regional areas in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Australia's fisheries and aquaculture are a priority with the Marshall Liberal Government's \$24.5 million historic commercial fishing reform, \$16 million for the upgrade of the South Australian Aquatic Sciences Centre at West Beach as well as \$20 million for jetty and boat ramp upgrades.

Drought-affected primary producers will continue to be supported through the targeted \$21 million Drought Support Package.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham said the Marshall Liberal Government will always back South Australia's regions.

"The State Budget 2020-21 is investing more than \$1.6 billion in new measures across regional South Australia to provide better services, support economic growth and create jobs," Minister Basham said.

"This includes over \$187 million to strengthen and support South Australia's primary industries and regions.

"Key regional infrastructure projects include the sealing the Strzelecki Track to support the agriculture and mining industries in the far north, Main South Road and Victor Harbor Road safety upgrades to benefit those on the Fleurieu Peninsula, Hahndorf traffic improvements at the Adelaide Hills, as well as critical road maintenance across the state from West Coast to the South East and Mid North in between.

"2020 has been a tough year for South Australians and our regions have been hit particularly hard, firstly with drought, then bushfires and coronavirus.

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“We will continue to provide support to our primary producers who need it through our bushfire recovery programs and our Drought Support Package.

“South Australia’s regions will be critical to our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic which is why we are investing in our agricultural industries to increase productivity and create jobs.

“The Marshall Liberal Government’s Regional Growth Fund has been successfully backing our regional economies since its introduction in 2018 and the extra funding in this year’s budget will provide immediate stimulus investment in our regional communities.

“Protecting South Australia’s fruit fly pest free status remains a priority and we will continue to spend what we need to ensure our horticulture industry has that market advantage around the world.

“Our zero-tolerance policy has successfully reduced the threat of Queensland fruit fly from the east but with Mediterranean fruit fly outbreaks in metropolitan Adelaide we are planning to expand this approach to our western border.

“South Australia’s commercial and recreational fishing industries are important contributors to our State’s economy, and we are investing in the industry to increase opportunities and encourage growth.

“The Marshall Liberal Government is building what matters to keep South Australians safe and strong, back businesses and create jobs.”