

STATE BUDGET

2019-20

MINISTER FOR TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT DAVID RIDGWAY MLC MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional tourism to benefit from infrastructure and marketing spend

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing in regional tourism infrastructure across South Australia to build regional communities, create more jobs and drive more visitors into our regions.

Key measures in the 2019-20 State Budget to drive regional tourism include;

- \$1.1 billion over 8 years in regional roads and infrastructure upgrades across the state, which includes \$20 million towards refurbishment of the Granite Island Causeway and \$1.8 million to upgrade regional airstrips;
- \$10 million over three years for Mobile Phone Black spots; \$9.3 million to upgrade infrastructure in National and Conservation parks across South Australia;
- \$4 million for regional coastline restoration; and
- \$43 million for additional marketing of South Australia to international and interstate visitors.

The Government's Events Bid Fund also supports regional tourism.

"The Marshall Government is delivering a host of infrastructure measures that will provide a massive boost to regional tourism," said Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment David Ridgway.

"The regions have long been punching above their weight, accounting for around 42 per cent of the State's total visitor expenditure despite only supporting about 23 per cent of the State's population.

"There's so much more tourism potential in South Australia that we can unlock if we pull the right levers.

"That's why we're investing in regional roads, fixing mobile phone black spots and rebuilding tourism icons like the Granite Island Causeway.

"We know that about 87 per cent of visitors to our regions are self-drive, that's why our \$878 million investment in this Budget is so important to providing better and safer roads and transport infrastructure for regional tourists.

"In this day and age connectivity is such an important part of the tourism industry and our \$10 million commitment to fixing some of our worst regional mobile black spots will help regional tourism businesses connect with visitors.

"Upgrading a number of regional airstrips will also help improve access and connectivity to some of our more remote areas across the state and unlock more tourism potential.

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“While we are investing in regional roads, airstrips and connectivity to help get visitors into our regions, we are also investing in the destination.

“The Marshall Government is delivering infrastructure upgrades in many of our National and Conservation Parks across the state.

“This could include more facilities, walking trails and a host of other improvements that will encourage more people to visit our parks and improve their stay while they’re there.

“The Granite Island Causeway is the jewel in the crown of Victor Harbor’s tourism industry and we will deliver \$20 million towards a permanent solution, securing this icon’s future.

“All these regional infrastructure upgrades will be complemented by more funding for regional tourism marketing and an Events Bid Fund that gives regional businesses an opportunity to attract more events and conferences to their community.”