



## Submission to the South Australian Regional Development Strategy

**26 July 2019**

Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDA AHFKI) play an active and key role on behalf of all three levels of government in the development of its region. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the discussion paper and help shape the state's Regional Development Strategy. Our submission below follows the format of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) Discussion Paper and was also presented to the panel at the Victor Harbor Stakeholder and Community Engagement Forum on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### Service Provision

Appropriate consideration is required to forward plan demand for services. The initiative to locate a Service SA centre in Mount Barker is a welcome move that will help a large proportion of our regions population access important face-to-face government services. We have seen population growth surpass the level of services in some cases including health services in Mount Barker. As well, there is anecdotal evidence that services including health, are not meeting all the needs of our growing aged population particularly on the south coast (Goolwa to Victor Harbor).

**RDA AHFKI submit that better forward planning might avoid such disparities between demographic demands and service requirements.**

### Investment in Infrastructure

In relation to regional investment in infrastructure, we see these two aspects to be critical moving forward:

- Productivity
- Long term outlook

It is heartening to have a state government saying and demonstrating commitment to the same things and RDA AHFKI look forward to consulting with Infrastructure SA.

Regarding infrastructure, the regions opportunities are centred around:

- Demographics (trends and growth)
- Tourism opportunities
- Potential for productivity gains

### Demographics

In the RDS Discussion Paper it is mentioned that population growth is widely acknowledged as a key ingredient for economic growth. For perspective, it is worth pointing out that AHFKI population growth over the last decade is closer to matching that of Australia than it is to SA.

Population growth (average annual growth 2009-2018, ABS)

Australia	AHFKI	SA
1.6%	1.3%	0.9%

AHFKI is a growing place that demands new and better infrastructure if it is to maintain its high level of liveability and accessibility.

Population related infrastructure priorities for the region include:

- Congestion-busting infrastructure
  - o SE Freeway + Glen Osmond Rd (city accessibility)
  - o Mt Barker (growth centre)
    - Heysen Blvd (ring road) and main thoroughfares
    - Recreational facilities
  - o Victor Harbor Rd duplication
- Public Transport patronage
  - o Park and Ride infrastructure - in our recent regional public transport study it was found that some Park and Rides are attracting over 300% capacity (ie; overflowing). As well, it was recommended that consideration be given to a new Park and Ride at Verdun to support new Bus Rapid Transit services between Adelaide and the hills.

**RDA AHFKI submit that there is a need for infrastructure planning to better focus on and support population growth to avoid congestion and support public transport patronage. This may include a state commitment to identified growth centres to focus attention and resources where they are most needed.**

#### Tourism

The Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region is a linchpin in South Australia's tourism economy. The Fleurieu Peninsula is the states highest value region for tourism expenditure outside of Adelaide and attracts 43.8% of South Australia's regional day trips – ie; it is Adelaide's playground.

To maintain the regions critical role as Adelaide's playground, tourism related infrastructure priorities for the region include:

- Access corridors including:
  - o Victor Harbor Rd which if duplicated will support increasing tourism traffic into Victor Harbor as well as offshoot access along its length, broadening Fleurieu Peninsula tourism opportunities
  - o Fleurieu-Kangaroo Island which requires port investment at Cape Jervis and Penneshaw
- Access for cruise ships (Penneshaw and Victor Harbor)
- Attractions including:
  - o Goolwa wharf
  - o Granite Island causeway

- Normanville jetty
- Reservoir accessibility
- Trails and interconnectivity (bike and walk)

**RDA AHFKI submit that continued investment in attractions is important and all levels of government have a role to play, particularly in relation to opportunities around public assets.**

### Productivity

Productivity improvement in the freight transport sector is the third critical investment need in the region and can also provide gains in improved safety and interactions with tourism and population growth.

The regions freight related infrastructure priorities include:

- Hahndorf bypass – currently the subject of a DPTI traffic study, it requires solutions to maintain the north-south freight route through the hills without going through the Hahndorf township
- Globelink - a non-stop freight corridor bypassing the central Adelaide Hills and city
- South Coast Freight Corridor (Cape Jervis – Victor Harbor – Strathalbyn – Callington) incorporating:
  - A greenfield Middleton Bypass which is needed to complete this freight route and at the same time address critical traffic pinch points at Port Elliot and Middleton and also separate significant interaction between freight and tourism
- Overtaking lanes
  - Additional overtaking lanes on Long Valley Road between Mount Barker and Strathalbyn
  - At Cape Jervis and Penneshaw – for traffic coming off the ferry

**RDA AHFKI submit that the needs of the freight industry must be considered carefully by the Regional Strategic Plan in regard to productivity, interactions with tourism, communities and safety.**

### Regional Enablers

#### Regional population

On the basis of the previously identified population growth experienced over the last decade, the AHFKI region unsurprisingly hosts 10 out of 20 of SA's fastest growing centres. Key demographic drivers include inward migration from tree-changers moving to the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula as well as coast-changers and retirees moving to the Fleurieu coastline.

Whilst lifestyle choices drive that inward migration, government have a critical role to play in enhancing the regions liveability, thus attracting and retaining people.

**RDA AHFKI submit that the Regional Development Strategy should consider:**

- **Opportunities for government decentralisation**
- **Further supporting regional tertiary study hubs**
- **Accessibility for connectedness and productivity – roads, internet, mobile**

- **Population-appropriate sporting and other recreational facilities**
- **Public transport, particularly for near-Adelaide regions where commuting to Adelaide is common**

### Capability Development

RDA believe our regions capability development needs are the same as for metro Adelaide

- Gaps/Opportunities
  - o Structured workforce development
    - State-based assessment of skills demand and supply with regional actions
    - Facilitate and support regional bodies to work on the required regional solutions and their delivery
  - o Tertiary Study Hub
    - Retain young people in the region
    - Accessibility and equity for tertiary education
  - o Novel training delivery models
  - o Improved connections between schools and industries

**RDA AHFKI submit that the Regional Development Strategy has an opportunity to frame how the state can alleviate the capability drain some regions are experiencing, as well as help retain young people that are full of potential.**

### Attracting investment, innovators and entrepreneurs

Attracting investment, innovation and entrepreneurialism goes hand-in-hand with improvements in the regions liveability. Government also has an opportunity to specifically play a role through:

- Prioritising funding of services to support private investment, particularly where multiple beneficiaries and/or significant scale exist (eg; water supply infrastructure for KI Cliffs Golf Course + American River Resort)
- Fund regional prospectus documents and further support the role of RDA's, including the better integration or collaboration of department roles to avoid duplication
- Specifically incentivise regional-based investment and R&D – eg; patent rewards
- Reduced R&D Tax Incentive complexity and red-tape for SME's (Federal)
- Education to improve cultural acceptance of entrepreneurial failure
- Inclusion of R&D collaboration in trade and investment programs

**RDA AHFKI submit that the Regional Development Strategy provides an opportunity to creatively consider means to support investment attraction, innovation and start-ups that will have a lasting influence on the states regional economy.**