

Media Release:

Landmark report highlights strengths and future opportunities for growth and investment in the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island

17 March 2022

RDA AHFKI has partnered with **Infrastructure Australia** to develop the [Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps](#) report. The report highlights opportunities in agriculture, tourism and healthcare sectors to support the regionalisation trend that took hold during the pandemic and is reshaping the Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region.

The *Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps* report provides a lens to highlight the opportunities in our regions and prioritise investment in Regional Australia.

In developing this report, Infrastructure Australia partnered with **48 Regional Development Australia** committees to conduct extensive consultation on community views.

This was supported by engagement with key regional stakeholders, including businesses, peak bodies and industry groups, to help create a picture of each area's diverse assets, growth industries and infrastructure requirements.

With the debut of the *Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps* report, Infrastructure Australia aims to increase the focus on the needs of Regional Australia. Through building an evidence base of mutually acknowledged needs, as well as identifying the assets available to be leveraged by industry and the community, working alongside government, to provide solutions.

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Consultation facilitated by the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island RDA found that stakeholders in **this region** consider housing, freight and public transport to be the most significant infrastructure gaps.

The report found that there are still many areas and towns that are poorly connected, with a lack of regularly scheduled public transport, highlighting a need for accessible intra-regional public transport infrastructure to support the high proportion of residents who work in the region.

Additionally, major investment will be required to build more housing to meet the future population profile in the region, which would also attract and retain a diverse and prosperous local community to generate economic activity within the region.

The CEO of Regional Development Australia, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Damien Cooke, said: “We welcomed the opportunity to have input into the Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps Report. The final report reflects the priorities of the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region and we will continue to advocate to have infrastructure needs in the region recognised by Government.”

Infrastructure Australia Chief of Policy & Research Peter Colacino said: “Infrastructure Australia’s [2019 Australian Infrastructure Audit](#) identified the challenges and opportunities in providing infrastructure and services in Regional Australia. It found that Regional Australia is characterised by limited choice of infrastructure and associated services, with thin markets limiting the ability for service providers to participate.

“While Australia’s regions are each unique, they share many strengths. This report draws out of those strengths as the basis for communities to define their own identity as well as supporting increased collaboration and knowledge sharing between communities.

“We encourage all stakeholders to use this evidence base to bring forward solutions to local challenges and seize opportunities for growth, innovation and investment. This evidence base supports planning, and informed decision-making, to ensure we get the solutions right to close these gaps.

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“Without further reform and investment, the quality of infrastructure and access to services in our regions will remain behind our Fast-growing Cities, constraining growth. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional population growth and changing patterns of trade are compounding these challenges,” Mr Colacino concluded.

[***Published alongside an interactive map***](#), the report is a starting point for discussion between all parties to inform further planning, policy and investment solutions. Further consultation is being encouraged, with submissions open until 29 April 2022.

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