

# STATE BUDGET

## 2018-19

### MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TIM WHETSTONE MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 4 September 2018

#### **State Budget provides big boost for regional SA**

The 2018-19 State Budget will invest significant funding into primary industries and regional development in South Australia.

The Marshall Liberal Government's first budget will deliver all of its election commitments to recharge our regions including \$15 million per annum over ten years for the Regional Growth Fund (RGF).

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said the RGF has been established to unlock new economic activity.

"The RGF will provide \$5 million in competitive grants as well as \$10 million to commit to regional growth projects," said Minister Whetstone.

"This funding will help deliver critical economic infrastructure to create direct benefit across regional industries and to strengthen regional communities."

Regional South Australia will have improved mobile phone coverage with \$10 million allocated over three years to Mobile Phone Black Spots funding.

"Better mobile phone coverage across regional South Australia is crucial to the growth of our state and will contribute to improved productivity, improved safety and will enhance the reputation of the state's key tourist destinations," said Minister Whetstone.

The 2018-19 State Budget also provides Regional Development Australia Boards (RDA) with funding certainty through \$12 million allocated over four years.

"This funding commitment will allow RDA Boards to continue to provide vital advice and support to drive economic development in each region," said Minister Whetstone.

"This arrangement will enhance collaboration between the RDAs, encouraging them to undertake work on a wide range of cross-regional issues and economic development projects.

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“The Marshall Government is investing in growing South Australia’s agricultural industries.

“It is important to support farmers experiencing hardship. The Budget delivers on our commitment to waive \$1.6 million in oyster industry fees and provides \$260,000 funding for Rural Business Support to deliver rural financial counselling services through to 30 June 2020, helping farmers manage their books and fill out applications for assistance programs.”

Another key election commitment to fund wild dog trappers to protect the state’s \$5.5 billion livestock industry will be delivered.

“We have employed seven wild dog trappers and provided an enhanced baiting program to safeguard one of the state’s most important industries,” said Minister Whetstone.

“These trappers will particularly help South Australia’s 7,000 sheep, lamb and wool producers and will also help prevent these vicious dogs from heading further south into the southern production areas.”

The 2018-19 State Budget will also continue to support South Australia’s vibrant food manufacturing sector by providing \$1 million per annum to support Food SA.

The Government is also investing in SA’s powerhouse horticultural industries by delivering funding for a business case for a Riverland Food and Wine Centre, as well as boosting biosecurity and installing new quarantine bins and increasing the monitoring and inspections of the bins to strengthen the state’s defences from the threat of fruit fly.

In order to meet the \$715 million savings task by 2021-22 left by the former Labor government and to deliver the new State Government’s priorities, the 2018-19 State Budget includes the following efficiencies in the Primary Industries and Regional Development portfolio:

- \$6.6 million over four years through a functional review of PIRSA service delivery and administration across the agency to improve efficiency in delivering services to the public. This includes the cessation of the SA Premium Food and Wine Credentials grant program. The \$6.6 million efficiency represents a reduction in grants and around 15 full-time positions by 2020-21.
- \$10.6 million over four years through the cessation of the economic sustainability grant program and a reduction in metropolitan based Regions SA divisional staff. The \$10.6 million represents a reduction in grants and around 6 full-time positions from 2019-20.

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- \$4.4 million over four years from food innovation rationalisation. This will be done by discontinuing the food innovation taskforce and associated costs and grants, including the Advanced Food Manufacturing grant program. The \$4.4 million represents a reduction in grants and around 3 full-time positions.
- \$5.5 million over two years through the discontinuation of the unutilised component of the Food Park Tenant Attraction grant program.
- \$5.1 million over four years through improved cost recovery for support services provided by PIRSA towards the delivery of SARDI research and development activities.
- With the establishment of the Regional Growth Fund, the government will not be extending the Local Government Association's Regional Youth Traineeship Program.