



Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association

Media Release

Making Regions Matter

Local leaders from South Australia's country communities have put candidates for the March State Election on notice that they expect a stronger commitment by the next State Government to growth and investment in our regional areas.

Mayor Julie Low, President of the Eyre Peninsula Regional Local Government Association, said that in comparison to other states, South Australia is well behind the mark in supporting country areas.

"Victoria has a long history of actively fostering growth in its regions, including a \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund, while Western Australia and Queensland both have strong "Royalties for Regions" programs that provide an ongoing funding stream for regional infrastructure and services.

"We are seeking a commitment for a similar regional investment program to support infrastructure development in regional South Australia.

"We also want the next State Government to commit to growing our regional centres and work towards having one third of South Australia's population based outside Greater Adelaide".

"There are 29 regional cities in Australia with populations over 30,000 and eight with populations over 100,000. None are in South Australia – this isn't good enough", says Mayor Low.

"Regional centres don't happen by luck, they are the product of a pro-active, long term commitment to decentralisation."

"Regional South Australia already contributes \$20 billion towards the state's economy, more than half a million jobs and 50% of exports.

We have so many opportunities to increase this contribution and we want the next State Government to foster confidence in our regions and support the enabling infrastructure and services that help build strong and vibrant communities where people want to live, work and do business."

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