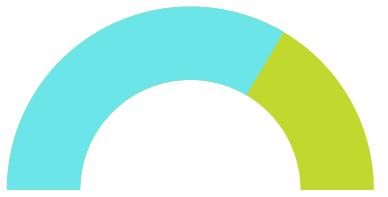


# Thinking of Making the Move?

Information to help you get to know the  
Limestone Coast, South Australia





# Contents

Welcome to the Limestone Coast	1
About the Region	2
Employment	4
Accommodation	5
Getting Around	6
Education and Child Care	6
Healthcare	7
Community	8
What Next?	9

Please note: Any information provided about the laws in Australia or South Australia is provided as general information only it is not legal advice. This document is a starting point only and is not a substitute for legal or professional advice.

While Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC) has attempted to ensure the information is accurate at the time of publishing, no responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions and the RDALC will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred by any person as a consequence of any use, reference or reliance on this information. Any such use, reference, or reliance shall be at the sole risk of that person who should seek their own legal and/or professional advice if required.



# 1. Welcome!

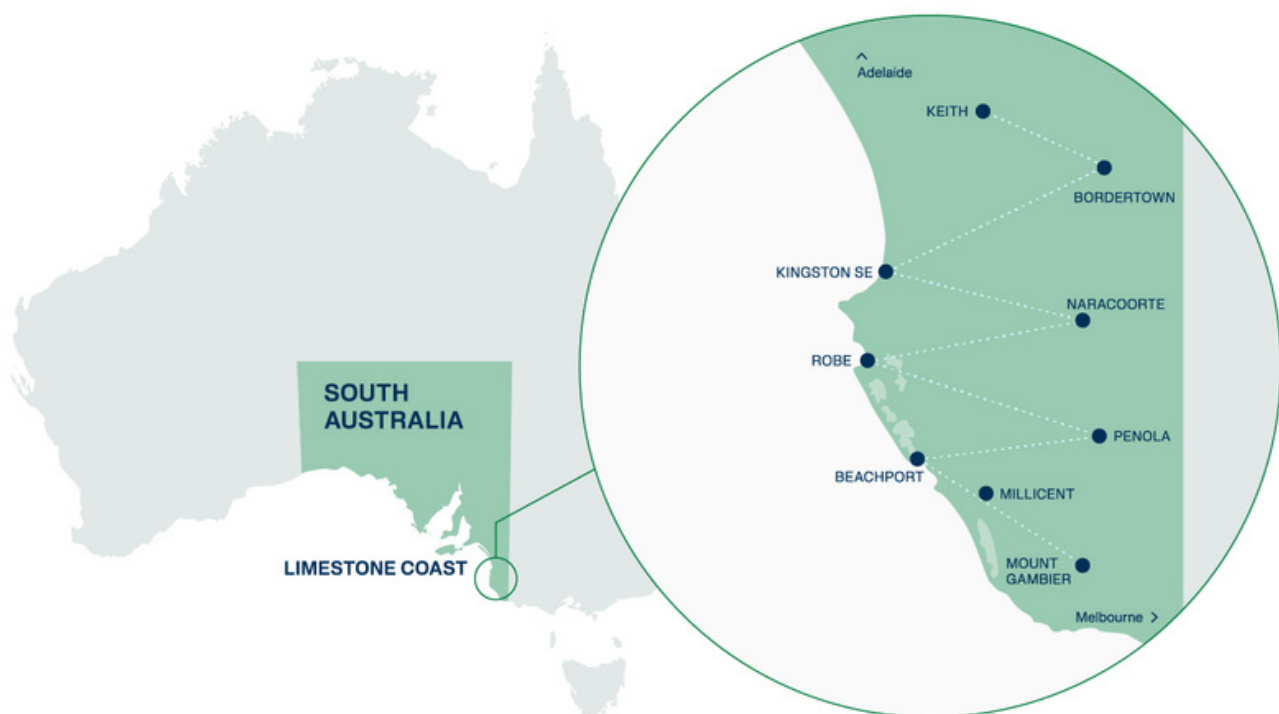
If you are reading this guide, you are thinking about making the move to the Limestone Coast in South Australia, or you have just arrived - either way, welcome! Congratulations on choosing to call this amazing part of the world home.

This guide will provide you with some general information on the region, on what life is like here, and on things such as accommodation and education for your family. It will hopefully also answer questions you may have about this unique part of Australia.

## Where is the Limestone Coast ?

The Limestone Coast is located in the very south east corner of South Australia. The region is between 200 and 450 kilometres south-east of Adelaide, and between 400 and 500 kilometres west of Melbourne.

The Limestone Coast is predominantly rural. Mount Gambier is the main city with other regional centres at Beachport, Bordertown, Keith, Kingston SE, Millicent, Naracoorte, Penola, Port MacDonnell, and Robe.



## Our First Nations People

The lands and waters of the Limestone Coast are central to the culture and beliefs of our First Nations people. We acknowledge the elders past, present and emerging, and we respect the deep feelings of attachment and relationships of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country, including the Boandik, Bindjali, and Ngarrindjeri people.

## 2. About the Region

The Limestone Coast region's estimated resident population is 68,542 (ABS 2021). More than one third of the population live in the city of Mount Gambier.

With stunning coastlines, forests, and prehistoric caves and sinkholes, our region is home to some of South Australia's most beautiful natural wonders. The region has something for everyone with world-class vineyards, theatres, restaurants, and a strong sporting culture.

The Limestone Coast encompasses a total land area of more than 21,000 square kilometres. Rural land is used largely for agriculture (particularly forestry, dairy, sheep and cattle grazing, and grain growing), with flourishing horticulture, viticulture, and aquaculture (fishing and lobsters) industries. The manufacturing sector is primarily focused on timber processing, food processing, and engineering.

Tourism is also an important industry in our region and visitors (and locals alike) are spoiled for choice with a wide selection of restaurants, cafes, and bakeries. Visitors have many accommodation options to choose from, including hotels, motels, short-term rentals, glamping, and caravan parks.

### Summer

Dec-Feb  
Temp range  
20-35°C



### Autumn

March-May  
Temp range  
11-20°C



### Winter

June-Aug  
Temp range  
7-15°C



### Spring

Sept-Nov  
Temp range  
10-20°C





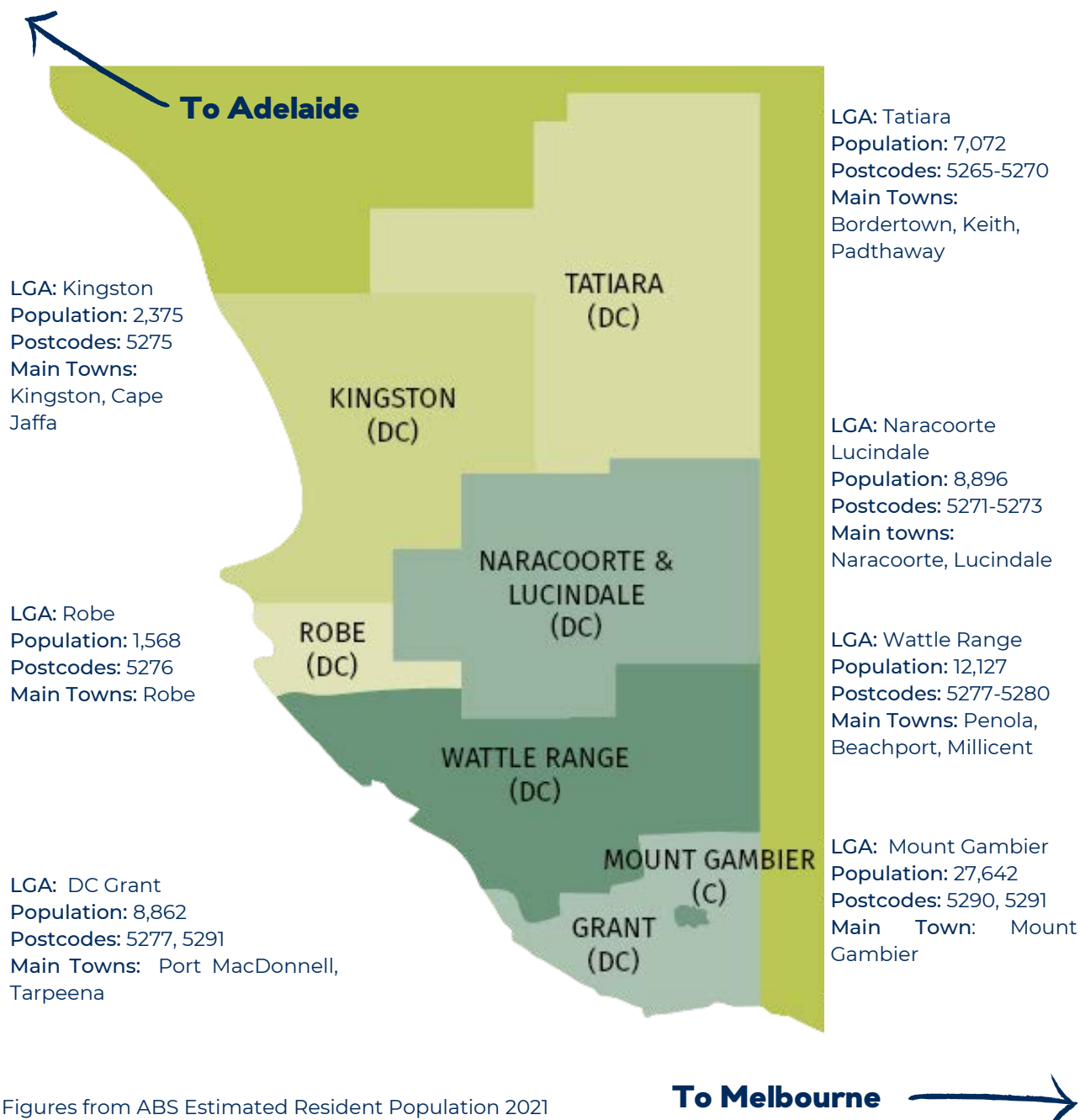


The Limestone Coast is comprised of seven Councils (or Local Government Areas). Councils are the lowest tier of Government in Australia and provide services that respond to the needs and priorities of local communities.

Councils are responsible for things like local roads, waste services, property rates, and animal registration. They are also responsible for public spaces like parks and sporting facilities. Many Councils also operate libraries and child care facilities.

Local libraries or Councils can be a good starting point to access information about what is going on in your local community. Libraries also offer free computer access and free internet access.

LGA = Local Government Area or Council Area



Figures from ABS Estimated Resident Population 2021

# 3. Employment

You might be reading this guide because you have applied for a job with one of our region's employers - good luck! Or you might have been successful and are moving to the region soon - congratulations!

But you also might be interested in moving to the region and have not applied for a job yet. The good news is that we maintain a free online Job Board with vacancies listed from across the region - [www.rdalc.org.au/job-board](http://www.rdalc.org.au/job-board)

Although about 6,400 jobs are advertised every year in the Limestone Coast, we know that a lot of jobs are filled without being advertised. Do some research and find out who the major employers are in your field of expertise - reach out to them and see if they have any vacancies coming up.

There are number of labour hire and recruitment companies working in the region who you could contact to assist in your job search.

## Largest sectors by employment across the region

Agriculture,  
Forestry & Fishing



Manufacturing



Retail Trade

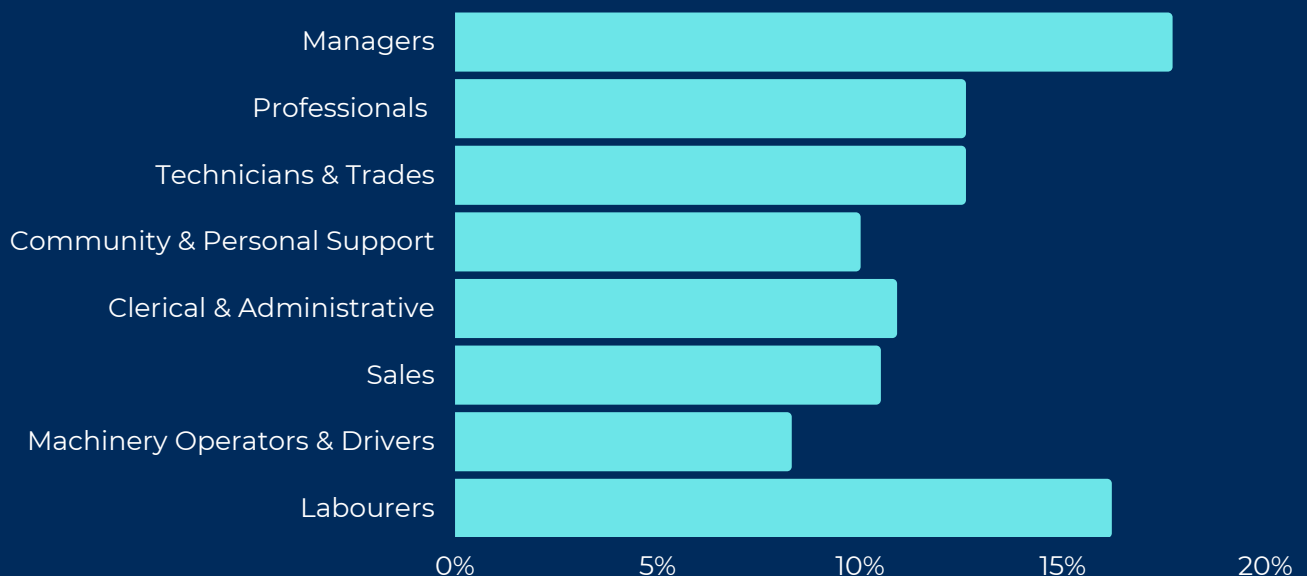


Healthcare & Social  
Assistance



## Occupations

The most advertised occupations across the region are shown below:



# 4. Accommodation

Whether you are coming from near or far, we know that finding accommodation can be challenging. We hope that this will help with your search.

## Short term accommodation

The main benefit of short term accommodation is that it can give you, and your family, time to work out where you would like to live before making a longer term housing decision. There are limited short term accommodation options in the region, therefore you will need to do your research to find something that would suit your needs and budget. The most common ways to find a place to live in the Limestone Coast is from real estate websites, newspapers, or real estate agents. You might search for these webpages in your hunt for short term accommodation.



## Long term accommodation

When making a decision about long term housing, it is important to consider where you would like to live, what housing options are available, proximity to your employment, and required amenities (school/shops/parks), as well as how much you can afford to pay for rent/mortgage.

### Renting

In case you have not rented property before, rental housing is available through real estate agents or private landlords. A 'lease' or a 'residential tenancy agreement' are usually for a fixed period of 6 or 12 months.

It is really important not to sign a lease unless you have inspected the property and fully understand the terms and conditions in the document, as it becomes legally binding after you sign it.

#### Tips for renting

- A tenancy lease agreement will need to be signed by the tenant and the landlord/agent
- All tenants will need to pay a tenancy bond or a deposit (usually 4-6 weeks rent)
- Expect property inspections every 3-6 months, usually undertaken by the agent or landlord
- Do not commit yourself to a lease that lasts longer than you are able to stay, as there can be significant costs if you leave before the end of the agreed period (known as 'breaking a lease').

Average  
weekly rent  
across the  
region



Average  
median  
house value  
across the  
region

(SQM Research Housing figures as of May 2023. Based on the median of 8 Limestone Coast towns - Bordertown, Keith, Penola, Naracoorte, Robe, Kingston, Mount Gambier, Millicent).

### Buying

You may have bought a house previously, or you may be buying your first house as a part of your move to the Limestone Coast.

Like elsewhere in Australia, real estate agencies list properties for sale online and in local newspapers.

Registering with agents and making sure they know what you are looking for is a great way to find out about properties before they hit the market.

If you can, getting pre-approval from your bank for your loan is a good idea.







## 5. Getting Around

The most common way to get to and around the Limestone Coast is by car. Outside of the city of Mount Gambier, there are no daily public transport services.

**Hire car** There are a few options for hire cars in the Limestone Coast, mainly in Mount Gambier. You can pick up rental cars at the airport.

**Taxi** There are numerous taxi options depending on where you are located. Search the internet for local listings.

**Fly** Regular return flights are available between Mount Gambier and Adelaide and Mount Gambier and Melbourne from the Mount Gambier Regional Airport. Flights are available with both Qantas Link and Regional Express (REX) airlines.

**Bus** Premier Stateliner offer daily inland and coastal coach services to and from Adelaide. To book, either call (08) 8415 5555 or visit their website.

V/Line offer daily coach services to and from Melbourne via Warrnambool or Ballarat. To book, either call 1800 800 007 or visit their website.

*If you are new to country driving, please take care on the roads. Be aware of trucks entering and exiting the main roads, and always look out for kangaroos and emus.*



## 6. Education and Child Care

### Child Care

There are a range of early childhood care and learning options available across the Limestone Coast. To find a centre near you, search the internet for options. Please note that there may be limited availability due to high demand. To maximise your chances of getting child care, register as soon as possible on your arrival (or planned arrival) to the region.

### Schools

In South Australia, it is compulsory for children to be in full-time schooling from the ages of 6 to 16. There are Government, independent, and Catholic schools located in the region. Search the internet for local options.

### Tertiary and vocational education

The Limestone Coast offers tertiary and vocational education options as well, including UniSA Learning Centre in Mount Gambier, TAFE SA, Southern Cross University, and Flinders University Rural Clinical School. Search the internet for available courses.





# 7. Healthcare

In the Limestone Coast, you will be able to find hospitals, general practices, dentists, a wide range of allied health (including chiropractors, audiologists, optometrists, physiotherapists, and podiatrists), as well as pharmacies. A number of NDIS service providers also offer services across the region.

To find a local health service, including those that are open after hours, visit the Healthdirect service finder, the SA Health website, or search the internet and local Facebook pages.

Many people travel to Adelaide for specialist problems, although there are also visiting specialists that come to centres across the region.

## Emergency services

In life-threatening or urgent situations, dial **Triple Zero (000)**

Emergency Departments are at Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Penola, and Keith Hospitals.

### Ambulance

SA Ambulance Service offers ambulance cover state-wide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ambulance costs are not covered by Medicare, and even if you have private health insurance, your policy may not cover the cost of an ambulance.

### Police

Police assistance line for non-urgent police assistance is **13 14 44**  
Crime stoppers line is **1800 333 000**

### Fire

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is the fire and rescue service located in Mount Gambier. The Country Fire Service (CFS) is the primary provider of bushfire and grass fire fighting services. The CFS website lists all incidents in SA. Make sure you have a bushfire evacuation plan and know where your 'refuge of last resort' is located.

### State Emergency Service

The SA State Emergency Service (SES) is an extreme weather and flood rescue service for South Australia. The response line is **13 25 00**





# 8. Community

Connecting to the broader Limestone Coast community after arriving can be really important for your social and emotional wellbeing. It also allows you to build up personal and professional networks, helping you feel more at home.

## Volunteering

Volunteering can help to improve community connections and provides new arrivals with an opportunity to showcase their skills and experience.

To register as a volunteer, contact community organisations such as your local groups or clubs, your children's schools, not-for-profit organisations, local Government, Volunteer SA and NT, Limestone Coast Volunteer Resource Centre, or emergency services.

## Community Events and Social and Sporting Groups

You can be an active community member by ensuring you look out for local events, support your local sports team, shop locally, join a class, or a group. Your local library or Council can be a good starting point to access information about what is going on in your local community.

There are also numerous Facebook groups you can join to give you information on the area and what's on. Check out pages like:

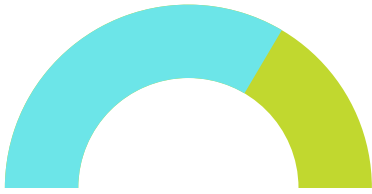
- Local Councils
- Limestone Coast Young Professionals Group
- Women in Business and Regional Development (member based organisation)
- Other sporting, arts, and social groups.

Country Women's Association, Rotary Clubs, and art groups have branches across the region.

If you play sport, there are a large number of clubs located across the Limestone Coast. From hockey to AFL to soccer, baseball, and tennis, there is something for everyone. Even if you do not play sport, you can be involved as a volunteer in many other capacities such as helping in the canteen (preparing and selling food), working on the gates (collecting entry money), and coaching.

Ask around or search the internet for what might be available in the Limestone Coast.





# What Next?

We hope that this brief guide has provided you with some useful information about the Limestone Coast, South Australia.

We encourage you to do more research on the region and on the types of jobs available. We have put together some useful links on our website - visit [www.rdalc.org.au/region-ready](http://www.rdalc.org.au/region-ready) for great resources.

Many of us have made the move that you are thinking about right now. Some people come and go, but increasingly, people are coming and staying. We think the Limestone Coast is one of those extra special places - a well kept secret that we have collectively decided to share.

So come on, give it a go! What are you waiting for?



2023

