



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional Development Australia

LIMESTONE COAST



Regional Development Australia
LIMESTONE COAST
Annual Report
2022/2023



Initiative of
Government
of South Australia



LCLGA

Limestone Coast
Local Government
Association



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Message from the Chair

On behalf of Members and Staff of Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC), I am pleased to present our 2022/2023 Annual Report.



It has been a productive year for RDALC as we progressed our five core pillars as outlined in the 2022/2025 Strategic Plan. The key highlights and details of our work over the year are outlined within this report.

I would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude for our funding partners, the Commonwealth Government, the State Government, and Local Government bodies, without their ongoing support our work would not be possible.

To our team of professional staff who have been active developing content and delivering updates and support throughout our regions, thank you for your ongoing commitment and dedication.

Our funding cycles often mean recruiting for short term contracts for specific projects and deliverables resulting in high staff turnover. To offset this and as an employer of choice, we provide opportunities to build skills, gain experience and make connections that add value for the individuals, and broader community when they move on.

Additionally, I would like to thank our volunteer Board Members who provide the drive and direction for our regional priorities now and into the future.

Evan Flint
Chair



2022-23 Highlights

5,947 Regional Vacancies advertised on the Job Board.

Implementation of the Employer of Choice Toolkit.

Blackspot connectivity regional proposal saw 26 new mobile towers funded for Limestone Coast.

'Circular Economy Opportunities Limestone Coast' Launched.

Investment pipeline featured 208 projects with a combined value over \$2.83 billion.



About the region

The Limestone Coast covers the south-eastern corner of South Australia and is equal distance to both Melbourne and Adelaide. We encompass the seven Local Government areas of the City of Mount Gambier; District Councils of Grant, Kingston SE, Robe, and Tatiara; and the Naracoorte Lucindale and Wattle Range Councils. The Limestone Coast supports a population of 67,371 people (ABS Estimated Resident Population 2021) and covers an area of 21,329 square kilometers.

Our region is home to a broad range of industry sectors making for a robust, vibrant, and expanding business community. The economy capitalises on the region's abundant natural resources and has come from traditional agriculture-based activities which have expanded to include forestry, manufacturing, tourism, engineering, transport, retail, health, education, and service industries.



About Us

To support the development of the Limestone Coast by facilitating industry collaboration, encouraging investment, building capability and capacity in our community, and driving collaboration between stakeholders.

PURPOSE

VISION

LIMESTONE COAST: A regional powerhouse recognised for innovation, sustainable production, value-adding, and employers of choice.

We collaborate and connect to foster regional growth.

MISSION

VALUES

INTEGRITY
COLLABORATION FOR IMPACT
FUTURE FOCUSED

STRATEGIES

INFRASTRUCTURE: Facilitate investment in infrastructure that will sustain and grow our region.

HUMAN CAPITAL: Support development of the skills, knowledge, capacities and productivity of our employers and workforce.

INVESTMENT: Collaborate to attract investment to our region.

ENVIRONMENT: Support our partners to maintain our clean, green environment.

ORGANISATION: Operate as an employer of choice.



Infrastructure

- Engaged with Telstra on a whole of region proposal to address priority connectivity blackspots that informed the future funding for 26 new mobile towers across the Limestone Coast.
- RDALC finalised the CSIRO TraNSIT 2.0 business case for reinstatement of the Mount Gambier to Heywood rail line.
- Successfully advocated for inclusion of land for the Glenburnie Intermodal in the District Council of Grant Strategic Land Use Plan.
- Participated in the Green Triangle Freight Action Plan including advocating for priority road upgrades for better movement across the region and border.
- Advocated for road infrastructure, bridge upgrades, Dukes Highway duplication, and other regional priorities.



Human Capital

- RDALC maintains a Job Board, collecting data and trends to advocate for support to businesses to identify and retain staff in the region and inform government policy.
- The Regional Workforce Project Key Statistics:
 - 21 skilled workers from outside the Limestone Coast registered with RDALC.
 - 3 skilled workers were assisted to take up employment and move to the region.
 - Hosted 2 regional migration information sessions.
 - 5,947 regional vacancies were collated and advertised on our website.
 - Facebook post reach for 'Job of The Week' promotions was 152,191.
- Small business support was provided to 223 small and family businesses across the Limestone Coast.
- Employer of Choice program was implemented, including;
 - Region Ready delivered 6 Specialist Seminars for local businesses.
 - 6 columns published in the SE Voice with a potential reach of 18,000 subscribers.
 - 28 business owners, operators, and employers attended a full day workshop in Mount Gambier.
- Collaboration with StudyAdelaide key statistics;
 - 42 skilled students and graduates were linked to regional employment opportunities.
 - A student tour was hosted through the region including a mini expo at Mount Gambier's UNI SA.

**STUDY
ADELAIDE
TOUR
FEEDBACK**

80% would consider a regional internship

92% were interested in working regionally





Investment

- Our Investment Pipeline highlights projects both public and private across the Limestone Coast. In June 2023, 208 projects were included, with a combined value of more than \$2.83 billion.
- As part of maintaining the Investment Pipeline, we have been able to identify barriers to construction, including access to adequate power, water, sewerage services, investment and workforce. These barriers were advised to State and Federal governments as part of our regional advocacy.
- Information on the Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation was provided to each of the eligible sawmills in the Limestone Coast. RDALC assisted with 3 successful applications.
- Grant support was provided to 231 organisations from across the Limestone Coast.
- We assisted in attracting more than \$13 million for the region in the first half of 2023, including \$560,000 towards the Forestry Skills Hub.





Environment

- 1,000 stakeholders were provided information on the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The Circular Economy Opportunities - Limestone Coast report was launched in November 2022 and promoted throughout the year.
- We participated in the South Australian Government Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act consultation process.
- A submission and presentation were made to the Natural Resources Committee of South Australian Parliament Inquiry into Biochar.



Organisational

- Regional Intelligence and Employee Growth
 - Active participation in an online workshop on Growing Regions Program design.
 - Active participation in South Australian Government Regional Land Use Planning process for Limestone Coast.
 - Participation in State and Local Government Economic Partnership Forum.
 - Submission was made to the Migration Review and RDALC was quoted in the Review of the Migration System Final Report.
 - Our CEO participated in the RDSA delegation to Canberra which included meetings with senior Ministers and Departments.
 - Our CEO was appointed to the Steering Committee to progress the Education and Training Precinct.
- 51 editions of The Weekly were published with over 1,650 people subscribed.
- Initiated an organisation wide policy review including developing relevant Risk Management, Delegation and Financial policies.



Financial



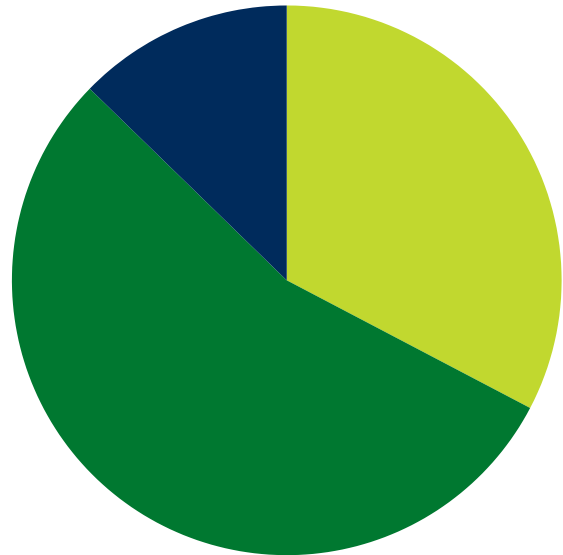
Commonwealth

State

Local

2022-23

Funding Partner Contributions

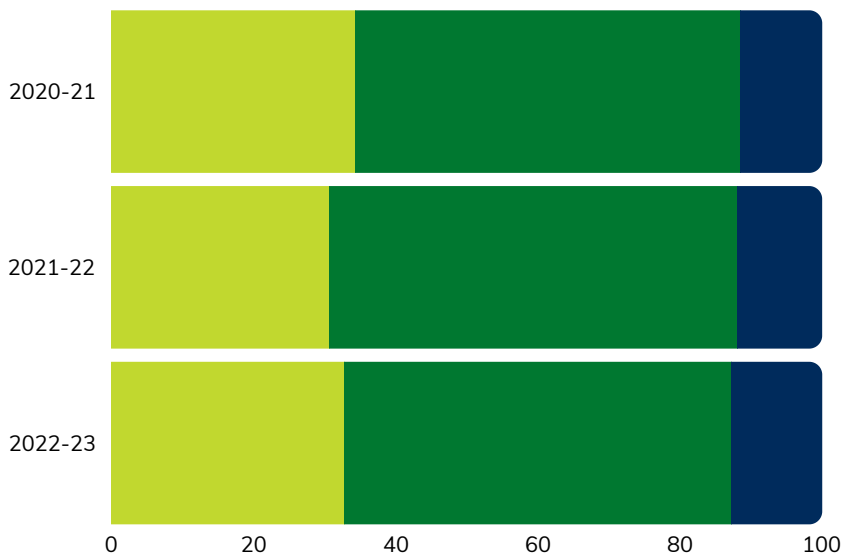


South Australian Regional Development Australia associations have a unique tripartite funding model. This means we are funded by and accountable to all three levels of the Australian Government.

The Commonwealth Government funds Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast as part of the national structure of 53 regions. Each region is given a base amount, which for our region is around 1/3 of our total revenue.

The South Australian Government provides a base level funding agreement from the Minister for Regions, as well as project funding from various departments depending on community priorities. In 2022-23 this accounted for almost 56% of our funding.

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association provides funding focused at providing benefit to our regions unique demographic and for small business support. In 2022-23 this contributed 13% of our total income.



Trends

Funding Partner Contribution comparison across financial years





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