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REGIONAL STATEMENT

BUDGET PAPER 6

Presented by the Honourable Kevin Foley MP
Deputy Premier and Treasurer of South Australia
on the Occasion of the Budget for 2008–09



Government
of South Australia

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REGIONAL STATEMENT 2008–09

Overview

Introduction

This paper provides information about new initiatives in the 2008-09 Budget, and those implemented since the 2007-08 Mid-Year Budget Review (MYBR), that have a specific regional focus. It does not specify existing regional programs and services or new initiatives that have been allocated on a statewide basis.

The prosperity and wellbeing of people and communities in regional South Australia is critical to the sustainability of the entire state. Viable regional economies contribute significantly to our economic growth and this needs to be partnered with strong social networks and environmental measures that conserve our water and other natural resources.

The achievement of *South Australia's Strategic Plan* objectives for regional communities is affected by distance, population and circumstances specific to each region.

Through Community Cabinets, and other community forums conducted by the Regional Communities Consultative Council (RCCC), the government is open to hearing the concerns and issues of regional people and stakeholders.

Regionalisation of South Australia's Strategic Plan

South Australia's Strategic Plan sets down six objectives for strengthening South Australia economically, socially and environmentally — Growing Prosperity, Improving Wellbeing, Attaining Sustainability, Fostering Creativity, Building Communities and Expanding Opportunity. The Plan is for the whole of South Australia and invites collaboration and cooperation between governments, communities and business.

Following extensive community consultation, the government has adopted a comprehensive process for 'regionalising' the Plan. With the involvement of the Community Engagement Board and the Director, Community Engagement (Department of the Premier and Cabinet), regional stakeholders are developing coordinated regional approaches to pursuing *South Australia's Strategic Plan* targets that reflect priorities specific to each region. 'Regionalisation' of *South Australia's Strategic Plan* will be assisted by the adoption of common regional boundaries across all agencies.

The process of 'regionalisation' has been piloted in the Limestone Coast region where stakeholders in government, community and business have worked together to identify the key targets for that region. This process has been supported by the RCCC with current and former members involved in the regionalisation of the Plan through regional steering committees across the state.

Regional Development Program

The South Australian Government's program for regional development comprises a range of resources to support regions and monitor regional service delivery across government. This is provided by the Department of Trade and Economic Development through the Office of Regional Affairs.

The Minister for Regional Development is advised by the RCCC on matters concerning regions, including the impact of decisions on regional communities and opportunities for initiatives to advance social, economic and environmental development that will improve quality of life in regional South Australia. A network of Regional Development Boards (RDBs) is funded by the Department of Trade and Economic Development to deliver regionally based support for economic and business development.

The Department of Trade and Economic Development (through the Office of Regional Affairs), coordinates a cross-government approach to regional development, working with the RDBs and other stakeholders, providing support to the RCCC, and promoting the interests of South Australia's regions.

The Department of Trade and Economic Development employs six regional managers who act as a direct line between the government and regional communities. They offer regionally based support for local *South Australia's Strategic Plan* priorities, case management support for key regional projects, and work closely with key stakeholders and RDBs to ensure that benefits from major projects flow to the regions and the state as a whole.

The Regional Development Infrastructure Fund (RDIF), managed by the Department of Trade and Economic Development, supports regional infrastructure projects that contribute to economic viability and development in regions, for the benefit of the state and regional communities.

Government's decision-making processes are guided by the Regional Impact Assessment Statement policy to ensure that it is better informed about regional interests. As well as requiring that Cabinet submissions include regional impact statements, the government also requires that significant decisions about services include a full regional impact assessment before they are implemented.

Regional Communities Consultative Council

The RCCC provides advice on regional matters to the Minister for Regional Development. Members are appointed from across the state to provide insight and expertise on regional issues. The Council has strong links with, and consults directly with, regional South Australian communities through quarterly forums at which local issues for education, transport, infrastructure, environment, and health are identified and considered by the Council.

In January 2008 the Council commenced a new three-year term, with 14 existing members reappointed and seven new members appointed.

RCCC members continue their involvement with *South Australia's Strategic Plan* with key roles on regional steering committees set up under the regionalisation process, including chairing the successful pilot in the South East, Mid North, Flinders Ranges, and Murray and Mallee.

The Council met and consulted with communities in the following locations during 2007-08:

- Port Pirie — August 2007;
- Riverland — November 2007;
- Streaky Bay — March 2008; and
- Murray Bridge — June 2008.

Regional Development Boards

The South Australian Government, in partnership with local government, is entering into new five-year funding agreements with each of the 13 RDBs, commencing 1 July 2008.

The State Government will provide approximately \$18 million and local government over \$5 million to the RDBs.

The new agreements demonstrate state and local government commitment to deliver economic development services to regional South Australia and extends the State Government's commitment to the delivery of regional development programs and services to some twenty years.

A five-year funding agreement provides the long-term horizon required to plan strategically for sustainable economic development outcomes in regions.

The RDBs provide a shop front for business development services offered to regions by the State Government, and for the provision of advisory and support services to business, state and local government in the regions.

RDBs also provide a service delivery function for a number of state and commonwealth programs, including 'SA Works' (Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology), Regional Food Program (Primary Industries and Resources South Australia-Food SA), Far North Economic Development initiatives (Primary Industries and Resources South Australia-Minerals), and skilled migration and Tradestart programs for the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Regional Development Infrastructure Fund

The Regional Development Infrastructure Fund (RDIF) is a key part of the government's regional program. The RDIF is administered by the Department of Trade and Economic Development to provide grants for, and leverage further investment in, regional infrastructure projects.

The RDIF aims to increase investment in strategic areas of regional infrastructure that supports job creation, investment, exports and economic growth. Since 1999, approximately \$24.7 million of RDIF investment has supported projects that have contributed an estimated \$1.2 billion in total investment, creating an estimated 4900 jobs.

Regional Highlights

The new initiatives in this budget that specifically relate to regional South Australia, along with ongoing and statewide commitments, will enable government, in partnership with regional communities and business, to implement *South Australia's Strategic Plan*. New initiatives of this budget, and those implemented since the 2007-08 MYBR, are summarised below:

Growing Prosperity

- \$1.7 million over two years to provide additional resources to the Olympic Dam Taskforce, the dedicated team established to facilitate BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam expansion.
- \$5.3 million over four years to continue and expand the government's program of attracting and retaining skilled migrants, with a particular focus on targeting countries where there are good matches for the skills needed and settlement potential in regional South Australia.
- \$11.0 million over four years to facilitate the efficient processing of exploration and mining approvals and allow for monitoring and regulation of the mining industry.

- \$3.3 million over five years to provide additional resources to support the regulation of exploration, development and production in the petroleum and geothermal industries.
- \$7.9 million over four years to improve marine safety, including replacement and maintenance of navigation aids, programs to improve commercial vessel safety, implementation of a 24/7 marine radio network and replacement of ageing patrol vessels.
- \$2.6 million over two years from 2007-08 for increased fuel expenses of the Remote Area Energy Supply scheme that provides subsidised reticulated electricity to 13 approved remote townships.
- \$27.1 million over four years to improve the efficiency of the freight transport network, primarily on rural roads.
- \$0.5 million in 2009-10 to provide support to the Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive.

Improving Wellbeing

- \$0.3 million over four years for the establishment of managed taxi ranks, including \$20 000 per annum to establish and operate the safety initiative in Port Augusta.
- \$2.7 million over four years for the purchase and operational support of point-to-point speed cameras between Globe Derby Park and Port Augusta to increase rural road safety.
- \$29.4 million over four years to extend the successful shoulder sealing program.
- \$4.2 million in 2008-09 for the Rural Road Safety Program to target infrastructure improvements on rural roads.
- \$41.0 million over three years for the redevelopment of the Berri Hospital to expand capacity and increase the range of services provided.
- \$2.6 million in 2008-09 to replace two country mobile units to help BreastScreen SA continue to provide its services in rural and remote areas.
- \$15.0 million over two years for the redevelopment of the Whyalla Hospital.

Attaining Sustainability

- A grant of \$0.6 million in 2008-09 towards the establishment of a solar power plant in Coober Pedy.
- \$0.8 million in 2007-08 for additional firefighting resources in National Parks during the extreme fire danger season in early 2008.
- \$9.8 million in 2008-09 for River Murray Water Security measures and relief from fees and levies for irrigators and others in the drought affected River Murray Catchment Area.

The drought continues to have a significant impact on regional South Australia. Since 2006-07, the state has provided substantial support through its own drought response programs and through the Commonwealth/State Exceptional Circumstances program. In 2008-09, the state has allocated \$9.8 million for the state's drought response programs, which include a young farmer's support package and the extension of the Planning for Recovery program. The state has also budgeted \$12.4 million as its share of the \$124.3 million 2008-09 Exceptional Circumstance program in South Australia.

Fostering Creativity and Innovation

- \$1.8 million over two years from 2010-11 for the establishment of a third Regional Centre of Culture.
- \$0.7 million in 2007-08 for regional arts infrastructure, including \$0.3 million for the Regional Arts Infrastructure Program which assists in regional theatre maintenance and \$0.4 million for a grant to the Whyalla City Council to facilitate the construction of an art gallery.

Building Communities

- \$15.9 million over four years for aerial firefighting including an air crane dedicated to South Australia, staffing for air attack supervisors and operations management and improved fire retardant mixing infrastructure.
- \$0.8 million over three years from 2009-10 for continuation of the government's contribution to bushfire research.
- \$4.3 million in 2007-08 to provide additional bushfire fighting and suppression resources as a result of the Kangaroo Island bushfires and extended bushfire season.
- \$2.9 million over four years for community education on bushfires, enhanced training for bushfire management teams and the employment of a Regional Public Warnings Officer.
- \$16.3 million over three years from 2009-10 for the upgrade and replacement of government employee housing to support the recruitment and retention of staff in remote and regional South Australia.

Expanding Opportunity

- \$0.5 million over four years for additional interpreters in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, Port Augusta and Adelaide for court and pre-hearing sessions involving Aboriginal defendants.
- \$0.8 million in 2008-09 to enable the replacement of school buses.
- \$9.1 million over three years to upgrade a number of schools in regional areas, including:
 - \$3.9 million over three years for the replacement of transportable buildings at the Cowell Area School;
 - \$1.7 million over three years for a new Child Parent Centre at the Littlehampton Primary School;
 - \$2.0 million over three years for the provision of a new administration building and upgrade to existing general learning spaces at the Yalata Anangu School; and
 - \$1.5 million over three years for the refurbishment of the administration area and provision of a new home economics area at the Yankalilla Area School.
- \$2.8 million in 2007-08 for a supportive housing model in Port Augusta that links accommodation to training programs that lead to workforce participation in the mining industry.
- \$9.4 million over two years for the establishment of a new Victor Harbor TAFE campus.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In 2006-07 regional South Australia was impacted by the drought, with field crop and wine grape production hardest hit. There was further growth in the value of mineral production, which is largely concentrated in Northern South Australia.

All regional areas of the state recorded growth in population in 2006-07, with the Northern Statistical Division recording its first population increase in over three decades.

Regional South Australia plays a significant role in South Australian economic activity. This is particularly so for agriculture, wine, energy and mineral production. Despite the significant contribution of these sectors, a more detailed analysis of the regional South Australian economy is difficult to undertake because of the limited data availability. Nonetheless, some indicators are presented in this regional overview regarding population, unemployment and the value of primary production to provide a flavour of the regional South Australian economy. Data for the value of primary production for each region presented are only available up to the 2006-07 financial year. However, it is estimated that the 2007-08 winter crop production statewide will be 77 per cent higher than in 2006-07.

Population and Unemployment

The estimated resident population of regional South Australia (the balance of the state outside of the Adelaide and Outer Adelaide Statistical Divisions) was 295 000 persons as at 30 June 2007. It increased by 1600 or 0.6 per cent from a year earlier. Regional South Australia's population accounted for 19 per cent of the total population for the state. The estimated resident population of the Adelaide Statistical Division was 1.2 million as at 30 June 2007, which was 12 100 or 1.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. The Outer Adelaide Statistical Division had an estimated resident population of 131 500 at 30 June 2007, which was 2500 or 2.0 per cent higher than a year earlier. Regional South Australia's population growth over the year to 30 June 2007 was higher than its five-year annual average growth rate.

In regional South Australia all statistical divisions recorded population growth during 2006-07, with the Yorke and Lower North Statistical Division recording the highest percentage growth over the year to 30 June 2007 at 0.9 per cent, followed by the Northern Statistical Division at 0.6 per cent, the South East Statistical Division at 0.5 per cent, and both the Murray Lands and Eyre Statistical Divisions at 0.4 per cent. The Northern Statistical Division grew for the first time in over three decades, mainly due to an increase in the population of Whyalla.

According to the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the regional South Australian unemployment rate averaged 4.5 per cent during 2007, lower than the 5.3 per cent for the Adelaide metropolitan area. During 2007, the average unemployment rate was lowest in the Outer Adelaide Statistical Division (3.2 per cent). The Northern Statistical Division had the highest unemployment rate in South Australia (5.4 per cent).

Table 1: Regional population and labour force data^(a)

	Adelaide	Outer Adelaide	Yorke & Lower North	Murray Lands/Riverland	South East	Eyre	Northern
Estimated resident population ^(b) ('000)	1 158.3	131.5	46.0	69.8	65.0	34.9	79.2
Unemployment ^(c) ('000)	31.3	1.9	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.7	2.2
Unemployment rate ^(c) (%)	5.3	3.2	3.6	5.1	3.8	3.6	5.4

(a) Regional classifications are in accordance with Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Standard Geographical Classification Structure.

(b) Estimated resident population is at the end of June 2007.

(c) Unemployment and unemployment rate estimates are averages for 2007.

Source: ABS Catalogue no. 3218.0; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Primary Production

The Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA) estimates that the value of South Australia's primary (agricultural and mineral) production was \$7.0 billion in 2006-07. This represents a decrease of 7.6 per cent from the 2005-06 estimate. Most of the decrease was due to significant falls in field crops and wine grapes, as a result of severe drought conditions across much of the state.

The minerals sector remained the largest in value terms during 2006-07, recording an increase of 5.7 per cent in the value of production to a total of \$2.5 billion.

Field crops and wine grapes were the two sectors that suffered the most from the drought conditions. After a promising start to the 2006-07 growing season, conditions deteriorated significantly in August–October 2006, with below average rainfall and high temperatures contributing to the failure of many crops. As a result the value of field crop production fell by a massive 60 per cent and wine grapes by 31 per cent during 2006-07. The failure of field crops has particularly affected the southeast, the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas and the lower-north of the state.

Livestock and dairy production were both solid in 2006-07, although in the case of livestock the growth of 11 per cent over the value of production in 2005-06 is inflated to some degree by drought-induced slaughtering. Dairy benefited from increases in milk prices throughout the year, with the total value of production increasing by 1.4 per cent during 2006-07.

Table 2: Selected Regional Primary Output (\$ million)^{(a)(b)}

	Adelaide	Outer Adelaide	Yorke & Lower North	Murray Lands/ Riverland	South East	Eyre	Northern	Total
2006-07								
Field crops	1	18	162	51	38	119	41	430
Livestock	64	202	134	269	413	57	226	1 365
Dairy	11	57	6	54	89	—	—	217
Horticulture	143	42	2	360	77	—	21	645
Seafood	2	29	41	2	64	267	1	406
Wine grapes	91	108	20	125	75	—	1	420
Minerals	62	23	40	48	13	4	2 311	2 501
Petroleum	—	—	—	—	11	—	866	877
Forestry	—	11	1	—	132	—	—	145
Total	374	490	407	910	911	447	3 467	7 005
2005-06								
Field crops	1	14	501	128	99	291	40	1 073
Livestock	16	159	247	213	338	80	174	1 228
Dairy	2	68	10	53	81	—	—	214
Horticulture	93	71	19	305	60	—	14	562
Seafood	2	27	35	2	61	269	—	395
Wine grapes	74	111	128	176	118	—	1	608
Minerals	47	40	49	30	11	4	2 184	2 366
Petroleum	—	—	—	—	16	—	977	993
Forestry	—	12	1	—	131	—	—	144
Total	235	502	990	908	915	644	3 390	7 584

(a) Table may not add due to rounding.

(b) Values represent nominal farm gate, mine gate, or petroleum refinery gate levels, which, in turn, may represent different levels of value-add or refining depending on the activities involved. For example, mineral values do not include all refining (processing) that occurs beyond the mine gate within the state (such as One-Steel (Whyalla) or Zinifex (Pt Pirie) activity), although do include the refining that occurs within a mine-site (such as within the Olympic Dam example).

Source: PIRSA

2008–09 BUDGET MEASURES

Growing Prosperity

Portfolio: Trade and Economic Development

Agency: Department of Trade and Economic Development

Expenditure Initiative: Olympic Dam Taskforce — extension

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-700	-1 000	—	—

Explanation

The additional resources will fund recruitment of additional staff, provision of external advice, and other costs associated with the operations of the Olympic Dam Taskforce, the dedicated team established by the State Government to facilitate BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam expansion.

The Taskforce has two roles: to negotiate indenture arrangements between the State Government and BHP Billiton, and to facilitate the government's role in the Olympic Dam development.

The activities of the Taskforce include:

- to coordinate, expedite and simplify interactions between BHP Billiton and the State Government;
- to coordinate and oversee project management of the government response to the project in terms of infrastructure projects and policy and regulatory requirements;
- where possible, to maximise the regional and state benefits to be derived from the project, particularly in terms of skills development, local content, regional development, infrastructure and indigenous economic development; and
- to plan for the provision of adequate and appropriate social and economic infrastructure in the region.

Portfolio: Trade and Economic Development

Agency: Department of Trade and Economic Development

Expenditure Initiative: Skilled migrants — attraction and retention

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-1 267	-1 307	-1 349	-1 383

Explanation

Regional areas of the state are experiencing greater difficulty in attracting and retaining workers than city areas. Migration attraction activities alone have not been sufficient to meet demand. Funds to support regional businesses and communities attract and retain workers will complement the migrant attraction program and also serve to improve migrant retention. Both of these programs are fundamental to the achievement of both regional population and overseas migration targets of *South Australia's Strategic Plan*.

Increasing competition from interstate and overseas for skilled migrants requires more targeted attraction programs for overseas migrants to South Australia. In order that migrants are aware of the employment opportunities in regional South Australia, and to ensure sustainable settlement outcomes, new market programs will be developed and implemented in countries where there are good matches for the skills needs and settlement potential in regional South Australia.

Portfolio: Primary Industries and Resources

Agency: Department of Primary Industries and Resources

Expenditure Initiative: Mining exploration and regulation — additional support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-2 000	-3 000	-3 000	-3 000

Explanation

This initiative will provide additional resources to support the significant growth of minerals exploration and mining in South Australia. The resources will facilitate the efficient processing of exploration and mining approvals and allow for increased monitoring and regulation of the mining industry.

The discovery and successful development of mineral resources will benefit regional and remote areas of the state through increased investment, economic development, employment opportunities and infrastructure provision.

Portfolio: Primary Industries and Resources

Agency: Department of Primary Industries and Resources

Expenditure Initiative: Petroleum and Geothermal Industry Regulation — additional support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	-266	-740	-756	-773	-790

Explanation

This initiative will provide additional resources to support the regulation of exploration, development and production in the petroleum and geothermal industries.

The discovery and successful development of petroleum and geothermal resources will lead to increased investment in regional infrastructure, with renewable energy being produced and available in regional and remote areas of the state.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Marine infrastructure — additional maintenance and upgrades

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-588	-879	-604	-749
Investing Payments	—	-1 412	-1 498	-972	-1 244

Explanation

This initiative consists of five marine safety components:

- aids to navigation, which includes new purchases, replacement and maintenance of aids including onshore/offshore piles, beacons and floating buoys, equipped with navigation markers and lights;
- commercial vessel safety, which provides increased resources for investigation, compliance, survey, education and policy for commercial marine activities;
- implementation of national standards for commercial vessels (involving crewing and qualifications);
- staged enhancement of the existing limited volunteer VHF coastal marine radio network to encompass all the state's high risk coastal waters on a 24 hours a day, seven days a week basis as a distress and safety service; and
- replacement of ageing patrol vessels for use on coastal and inland waterways.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Remote power generation — increased fuel expenses

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	-396	-2 176	—	—	—

Explanation

The Remote Area Energy Supply scheme provides subsidised reticulated electricity to 13 approved remote townships in South Australia. This supports sustainable communities in remote regions by ensuring that electricity supply is available at reasonable prices. The additional resources provides for the increased cost of diesel and LPG fuels.

The towns are Blinman, Cockburn, Glendambo, Kingoonya, Manna Hill, Marla, Marree, Nundroo, Oodnadatta and Parachilna, as operated by the State Government, and Andamooka, Coober Pedy and Yunta, with independent operators.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Rural Freight network — maintenance and improvements

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	—	-36	-73	-167
Investing Payments	—	-6 800	-6 800	-6 200	-7 000

Explanation

This initiative will improve the efficiency of the freight transport network, primarily on rural roads in South Australia, leading to the gazettal of additional freight routes and reduced administrative procedures.

The improvement program will be achieved through:

- road widening and shoulder sealing;
- intersection improvements;
- railway level crossing upgrades; and
- overtaking lanes.

Portfolio: Tourism

Agency: South Australian Tourism Commission

Expenditure Initiative: The Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive — support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	—	-500	—	—

Explanation

The Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive is a major event that has been staged three times (in 2002, 2005 and 2007) by the South Australian Tourism Commission. Its purpose is to attract international and interstate visitors to the state and profile outback South Australia through media exposure in our key international tourism markets.

The event provides visitors an unrivalled opportunity to drive cattle on horse-back along historic stock routes led by locals, experiencing en-route the unique scenery and attractions of outback South Australia, as well as the lifestyle and challenges typically faced by European settlers and pastoralists.

The event is staged in close collaboration with regional communities, including local Aboriginal Australian representatives and pastoralists. Many of the supporting resources and services are procured locally, providing a boon to local businesses and the community. The event also facilitates the development of tourism-related skills and expertise and leaves in place selected infrastructure, further enhancing regional tourism growth in outback South Australia.

Improving Wellbeing

Portfolio: Justice

Agency: Attorney-General's Department

Expenditure Initiative: Managed taxi ranks — establishment and ongoing support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-80	-82	-84	-86

Explanation

The establishment of managed taxi ranks is a major initiative in promoting patron safety, reducing incidents of assaults at taxi ranks and assisting with the orderly dispersal of patrons from licensed premises and entertainment precincts. In partnership with local government and the Taxi Council of South Australia, additional managed taxi ranks will be established at the corner of Rundle Street and Pulteney Street in Adelaide, Glenelg and Port Augusta. The state contribution to the Port Augusta component of this initiative is approximately \$20 000 per annum.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Point-to-point speed cameras — purchase and operational support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	—	-223	-127	-98
Investing Payments	—	-668	-1 582	—	—

Explanation

This initiative introduces point-to-point speed enforcement using the Safe-T-Cam network between Globe Derby Park and Port Augusta to increase the detection of speeding drivers. The initiative includes the installation of additional Safe-T-Cams and the upgrade of relevant computer systems.

Excessive and inappropriate speed is a key contributor to road accidents. This is a new and innovative means to improve driver behaviour.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Road safety — shoulder sealing

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-7 200	-7 200	-7 500	-7 500

Explanation

This initiative will extend the successful Shoulder Sealing program by four years.

Shoulder sealing on rural roads has the potential to reduce rural road accidents by around 40 per cent. This initiative involves sealing road shoulders on high priority rural roads based on traffic volumes, the nature of the road and crash sites.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Rural road safety — increased investment

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-4 200	—	—	—

Explanation

A program of targeted road safety infrastructure improvements such as improved signing and delineation, minor junction improvements and removal, modification and shielding of fixed hazards. This program contributes to the key strategic priorities outlined in the *Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia*, including reducing injuries and fatalities from transport related accidents.

Portfolio: Health

Agency: Department of Health

Expenditure Initiative: Berri Hospital — redevelopment

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-1 000	-20 000	-20 000	—

Explanation

This initiative provides for the redevelopment of the Berri Hospital to expand capacity and increase the range of services provided. The redevelopment will include upgrades to operating theatres, emergency, rehabilitation and mental health services.

Under the *South Australian Health Care Plan* and the *Country Health Care Plan*, there will be four country general hospitals that will provide services closer to where people live and reduce the need to travel to metropolitan areas for health care. The Berri Hospital redevelopment is part of these Plans.

Portfolio: Health

Agency: Department of Health

Expenditure Initiative: BreastScreen SA — replacement of country mobile units

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-2 591	—	—	—

Explanation

This initiative provides for the replacement of two country BreastScreen SA mobile units, including the installation of digital x-ray technology. The two country mobile units service an estimated population of 105 500 women aged 40 years and over of which approximately 50 000 women are in the target age group (50 to 69 years). The new mobile units will ensure that women in rural and remote areas will continue to have access to high quality breast cancer screening services.

Portfolio: Health

Agency: Department of Health

Expenditure Initiative: Whyalla Hospital — redevelopment

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-7 500	-7 500	—	—

Explanation

This initiative provides for the redevelopment of the Whyalla Hospital. The redevelopment will include the upgrade of mental health, rehabilitation and palliative care services and the integration of day surgery into operating theatres.

Under the *South Australian Health Care Plan* and the *Country Health Care Plan*, there will be four country general hospitals that will provide services closer to where people live and reduce the need to travel to metropolitan areas for health care. The Whyalla Hospital redevelopment is part of these Plans.

Attaining Sustainability

Portfolio: Premier and Cabinet

Agency: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Expenditure Initiative: Solar power station (Coober Pedy) — grant

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-635	—	—	—

Explanation

This initiative will contribute \$635 000 to the establishment of a solar power plant in Coober Pedy. The contribution will pay for the high-efficiency solar cells at the heart of the \$7.1 million project. The plant will augment the existing diesel plant and will be the equal third largest in Australia and the largest off-grid plant. It will supply an estimated 1860 megawatt-hours of energy, which will meet around 13 per cent of the town's annual electricity requirements. As a result of this initiative, diesel consumption would reduce by an estimated 520 000 litres per year. The project will be completed late in 2009, with benefits for the local economy during and after construction.

The substantial physical presence of the project's 26 solar dishes, each standing 14 metres high, will provide a landmark for the town of Coober Pedy, reduce greenhouse emissions and reduce reliance on diesel for electricity production.

Portfolio: Environment, Conservation and the River Murray

Agency: Department for Environment and Heritage

Expenditure Initiative: Fire Management — increased capacity

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	-816	—	—	—	—

Explanation

This initiative provided additional firefighting resources in National Parks during the extreme fire danger season in early 2008.

Firefighting initiatives associated with the Country Fire Service are detailed in the Building Communities section of this statement.

Portfolio: Environment, Conservation and the River Murray

Agency: Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

Expenditure Initiative: River Murray Water Security — continued support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-6 810	—	—	—
Operating Revenues	—	-3 020	—	—	—

Explanation

This initiative provides \$6.8 million in additional resources for a range of River Murray water security initiatives to minimise the impacts of the current drought. Initiatives include:

- on-going community engagement and communication;
- education and compliance programs; and
- scientific investigations and monitoring of water quality.

Also, \$3 million of fees and levies will be waived for irrigators and others in the drought affected River Murray Catchment Area, in particular:

- \$2.2 million in relief from the Natural Resource Management levy; and
- \$800 000 in relief for River Murray irrigators from fees incurred to ‘top up’ water allocations.

Fostering Creativity and Innovation

Portfolio: Premier and Cabinet

Agency: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Expenditure Initiative: Regional Arts — infrastructure and events

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	-700	—	—	-800	-1 000

Explanation

This initiative provides \$1.8 million over 2010-11 and 2011-12 for the establishment of a third SA Regional Arts Centre for Culture, extending the government's 2006-07 Budget commitment to this program.

Local communities and regions will once again be invited to bid to be designated as South Australia's Regional Centre of Culture. Following arts infrastructure development in the successful community, there will be a year long program of activities, with major state supported arts companies showcasing their works in the selected region.

The initiative also provides \$300 000 in 2007-08 for the extension of the Regional Arts Infrastructure Program, which assists in regional theatre maintenance, and \$400 000 in 2007-08 for a grant to the Whyalla City Council to facilitate the construction of an A-class art gallery in Whyalla.

Building Communities

Portfolio: Justice

Agency: Country Fire Service

Expenditure Initiative: Aerial firefighting — large capacity helicopter and associated support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-3 747	-3 923	-4 070	-4 190

Explanation

This initiative provides for a large capacity firefighting helicopter, such as an Aircrane, to be based in South Australia during the bushfire season. The helicopter will supplement the existing aerial firefighting fleet. The large capacity helicopter will be based in the Mount Lofty Ranges but may respond to major incidents across the state as required.

Additional staff will be engaged to support the safe and effective management of aerial operations. This initiative will also upgrade fire retardant mixing infrastructure and facilitate the installation of water tanks at strategic airstrips across the state to support aerial firefighting operations.

Portfolio: Justice

Agency: Country Fire Service

Expenditure Initiative: Bushfire Cooperative Research Council — ongoing support

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	—	-263	-269	-276

Explanation

This initiative reflects an increase in South Australia's contribution to the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to support research, development and education activities. This contribution will provide the opportunity for the Bushfire CRC to investigate items recommended following the Wangary Fires Coronial Inquest such as the impact of farming practices on bushfire risk and opportunities to minimise that risk.

Portfolio: Justice

Agency: Country Fire Service

Expenditure Initiative: Bushfire suppression — additional resources

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	-4 300	—	—	—	—

Explanation

Additional costs incurred in fighting or suppressing bushfires in 2007-08 as a result of the Kangaroo Island bushfires and the extended bushfire season.

Portfolio: Justice

Agency: Country Fire Service

Expenditure Initiative: Wangary Coronial Inquest response — additional education, training and staffing

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-774	-676	-692	-709

Explanation

This initiative responds to the recommendations from the Coronial Inquest following the Wangary bushfire. Resources are provided to support Incident Management Teams that manage large bushfires. This support will focus on the ongoing development, maintenance and upgrading of skills and competencies required for Incident Management Team personnel.

This initiative will also facilitate increased public awareness and planning for bushfires.

A Regional Public Warnings Officer position will be created to identify the need for, and to deliver, timely bushfire warnings to the public during the course of a bushfire incident.

Portfolio: Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Agency: Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Expenditure Initiative: Government employee housing — upgrade and replacement

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	—	-5 000	-5 500	-5 800

Explanation

This initiative will improve government employee housing to support the recruitment and retention of staff in remote and regional South Australia. The program will replace and upgrade existing government properties including the removal of asbestos.

In addition, this initiative will improve energy usage and water efficiency within these properties.

Expanding Opportunity

Portfolio: Justice

Agency: Attorney-General's Department

Expenditure Initiative: Aboriginal interpreters — increased resources

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	—	-124	-128	-132	-136

Explanation

This initiative provides for additional interpreters of Aboriginal languages in courts and in pre-hearing sessions with Aboriginal defendants. The additional resources are to be provided in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, Port Augusta and Adelaide.

Portfolio: Education and Children's Services

Agency: Department of Education and Children's Services

Expenditure Initiative: School Pride Buses — additional resources

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-800	—	—	—

Explanation

This initiative provides an additional \$800 000 (bringing the total bus replacement program to \$1.9 million in 2008-09) to enable the replacement of school buses owned by the Department of Education and Children's Services.

Portfolio: Education and Children's Services

Agency: Department of Education and Children's Services

Expenditure Initiative: Cowell Area School

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-100	-1 000	-2 840	—

Explanation

Replacement of transportable buildings that provide both general learning and specialist areas.

Portfolio: Education and Children's Services

Agency: Department of Education and Children's Services

Expenditure Initiative: Littlehampton Primary School

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-100	-1 000	-580	—

Explanation

Provision of a new Child Parent Centre.

Portfolio: Education and Children's Services

Agency: Department of Education and Children's Services

Expenditure Initiative: Yalata Anangu School

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-50	-500	-1 460	—

Explanation

Provision of a new administration building and upgrade to existing general learning spaces.

Portfolio: Education and Children’s Services

Agency: Department of Education and Children’s Services

Expenditure Initiative: Yankalilla Area School

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-50	-1 030	-420	—

Explanation

Refurbishment of the administration area and provision of a new home economics area.

Portfolio: Families and Communities

Agency: Department for Families and Communities

Expenditure Initiative: Homelessness — Common Ground Port Augusta

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Operating Expenses	-2 800	—	—	—	—

Explanation

Port Augusta is an important regional centre in South Australia, which is experiencing increased economic activity. However, one negative effect is that the most vulnerable citizens are at risk of being marginalised by increasing cost pressures on land, housing and other basic necessities, particularly for the city’s Aboriginal community.

This initiative provides long-term housing for previously homeless people and low income workers, including on-site support services and a specific focus on strategies that link people to employment opportunities provided by the mining industry in remote areas of South Australia. There will be a particular focus on Aboriginal people. The Port Augusta Common Ground proposal provides an opportunity to adopt a supportive housing model that links accommodation to training programs that lead to workforce participation in the mining industry.

Portfolio: Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology

Agency: Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology

Expenditure Initiative: Victor Harbor — New TAFE Campus

Budget Implications (\$000s)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Investing Payments	—	-4 100	-5 300	—	—

Explanation

This initiative provides appropriate accommodation for ongoing and expanded training for the South Coast Region. It is expected the region will face growing education demands as a result of forecast population growth. The development of a new Victor Harbor TAFE campus will provide people in the region the opportunity to obtain vocational and pre-vocational qualifications.



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