

South East/ Limestone Coast

This is a region renowned for producing highly valued wine, seafood, timber and a diverse range of agricultural produce, and portraying a clean, green image through wind farm and biomass opportunities. The long coastline and world-renowned national parks and conservation areas attract national and international visitors. Key infrastructure issues are the long-term sustainability of the region's natural water resources and transport connectivity from the Green Triangle area to export markets.



At a glance

Area	21,406 km ² (2.18% of SA)
Population	63,910 in 2001, (4.36% of SA)
Aged < 15	22.15% against SA average of 19.57%
Aged > 65	12.77% against SA average of 14.40%
Demographic trends	2016 projection: 62,700 (3.9% of SA) Mount Gambier will continue to grow (against the trend).
Natural Resources	World Heritage listed Naracoorte caves, Blue Lake at Mount Gambier, underground aquifers, Coorong National Park, 260 km of coastline
Key Industries	Forestry, viticulture, livestock/dairy, wool, grains, fishing/aquaculture, associated manufacturing & tourism
Seaports	Export port at Portland (Vic) and Melbourne
Commercial Airports	Mount Gambier

Principal Industries

Forestry

The area contains the majority of the State's softwood plantations and processing facilities with 105,000 ha established as of 2003 and 2.8 million tonnes of softwood logs produced in 2001 with a gross value of \$1.7 billion. Blue gum plantations totalling 28,000 ha were planted to 2003, with large-scale harvesting planned to commence from 2008.

An estimated additional 60,000 ha is available for plantation expansion in the next 10 years.

A new Forestry SA headquarters is to be built in Mount Gambier, with completion in July 2006 at a cost of \$7m. Forestry SA has committed \$200 000 to support the development of national genetic resource centre by the Southurn Tree Breeders Association in Mount Gambier.

Agriculture

There are four established wine-producing Geographical Indication (GI) zones – Coonawarra, Padthaway, Wrattontully and Mount Benson. The region produced 12.2% of the state's total crush in 2003 with a total estimated purchase value of \$95m for reds and \$23.8m for whites.

Some 46% of the state's beef, 34% of the state's sheep meat and 30% of the state's wool were produced in the area in 2001. The total value of beef and lamb production was \$172 million, with wool amounting to \$75 million. In 2002 the total value of milk production was \$110 million. Over the next 10 years the region will increasingly become the focus of the dairy industry.

Gross annual value of grain production is about \$41 million, with legumes adding a further \$15 million.

The main crops are potatoes (processed into chips and french fries at Nangwarry and Snuggery), cherries, apples and onions.

Aquaculture and Fishing

Fishing fleets are based at the ports of Port MacDonnell, Blackfellows Caves, Carpenter Rocks, Southend, Beachport, Robe, Cape Jaffa and Kingston. There is a significant southern rock lobster export industry in the region.

Aquaculture is a fledgling industry but is gaining momentum with operators producing abalone, Murray cod, rainbow trout, salmon and barramundi.

Future growth will be assisted by the Cape Jaffa marina development, which will provide new commercial fishing wharves.

Tourism

In 2002, the Limestone Coast Tourism Region attracted 652,000 overnight visitors, including 42,000 international visitors who stayed 1.7 million nights – more interstate visitors than in any other part of the state, except for Adelaide.

Major attractions are the internationally recognised wetlands, rugged coastlines, historic villages, world heritage listed Naracoorte caves, volcanic lakes and premier wine producing areas.

Infrastructure

Energy



The electrical interface with Adelaide is a meshed network of 275 kV and 132 kV transmission lines and substations. Two 275 kV lines provide the interconnection to Victoria. As a result of recent demand increases at Kimberly-Clark Australia's (KCA) pulp mill at Tantanoola and connection to approved wind farms at Lake Bonney, ElectraNet is expending \$30 million on network upgrades at Snuggery, construction of a new sub-station (Mayurra) and the required 132 kV transmission connection (Mayurra to Snuggery).

Three distillate-fuelled gas turbine generators installed at Snuggery, and the Ladbrooke Grove gas turbines near Penola provide 45 MW and 72 MW respectively into the network.

Two wind farms are operational in the South East. Several major developers are investigating the feasibility of other wind farm development sites along the coast.

The Katnook area gas field supplies natural gas to industrial, residential and other customers in the Mount Gambier region. Spur lines deliver gas to KCA's processing plant at Tantanoola, the SAFries chip factory and the Nangwarry timber mill. The SEA Gas pipeline passes within 8 km of Naracoorte and continues to the south-west of Keith. A spur line to supply gas to the Teys Brothers abattoir near Naracoorte was recently commissioned. Origin has committed to build the SESA pipeline to link Katnook with gas transported in the SEA Gas pipeline; commissioning is expected by the end of May 2005. Gas from fields in the Otway basin will supplement the declining supplies from the Katnook gas fields.

Water



Water in the region is sourced from a number of supplies. The Tailm Bend to Keith pipeline (Murray – Darling water) services a number of towns and large agricultural areas in the north. The balance of the region obtains its water from a combination of surface and groundwater and, in the case of the City of Mount Gambier, the Blue Lake.

Groundwater in the majority of the region is allocated by licence in designated Prescribed Wells Areas. The management of ground/surface water, together with associated catchment ecosystems is detailed in the 2003–08 South East Catchment Water Management Plan.

Government approval was given in June 2003 for completion of the Upper South East Dryland Salinity and Flood Management Program. The project involves an integrated program of new drainage construction works (410 km with a value of nearly \$21 million) and environmental activities including wetland rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation and saltland agronomy. The Northern Catchment portion of the construction works commenced in April 2004 and were completed in November 2004. The Central Catchment alignments are being investigated to determine the best drainage outcomes.

An opportunity exists to harvest wastewater from the KCA plant at Tantanoola. Under EPA direction, it will be required to ensure that all outflows (estimated to be 10 GL pa by 2006) meet 'B' grade (irrigation) standard water quality by 2014.

The Limestone Coast Regional Development Board (LCRDB) report on water resource development potential of the Eight Mile Creek catchment concluded that a reliable yield of around 55 GL pa could be utilised. An environmental sustainability assesment of the resource is being undertaken prior to considering commercial use.

There is a strong demand for Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Schemes (STEDS) across the region.

Transport



There are 9091 km of roads in the region, of which 2071 km are sealed.

The main Adelaide – Melbourne standard-gauge rail line passes through Tintinara, Keith and Bordertown. There is a broad-gauge line between Wolseley to Millicent and Mount Gambier to Portland.

The Blue Gum forests are expected to yield an additional 1 million tonnes of timber when harvesting commences. Impacts on the community from transporting the projected tonnage by road are a major issue.

The State Government is continuing to fund road widening and construction of overtaking lanes on major roads.

There is a significant network of bridges associated with the South East Drainage Scheme. The size and condition of some of these bridges will impact on heavy vehicle movements.

Traffic flows in the South East have led local communities to lobby the Australian Government for release of Auslink funding for heavy vehicle by-passes around major towns.

Land

To capitalise on the opportunities presented by major new industrial developments, the region requires planned, serviced industrial land.

A lack of serviced, large-scale industrial sites in the lower portion of the region may impact on the projected expansion of the forestry and dairy industries.

The development of a combined public/commercial marina, upgrade of existing recreational facilities and residential development at Cape Jaffa will assist the commercial/recreational fishing industry and provide a range of residential accommodation options to working families and retirees.

The future use of the surplus Mount Gambier railway station yard should be resolved.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)



Most of the region has dial-up internet access but ADSL broadband coverage is only available in a few of the larger towns.

Access to broadband will be facilitated by aggregation of bandwidth, particularly by larger users.

All major towns and most highways have mobile coverage but there are some gaps in some of the more sparsely populated areas and along some secondary roads.

Health



There are seven hospitals providing services in the region. The largest is Mount Gambier Hospital.

Mount Gambier Hospital is the major health facility in the region providing a high level of accident and emergency services and general, orthopaedic and other surgical services. Surgical facilities have been recently upgraded.

Industry growth is creating pockets of significant population growth, putting pressure on accommodation, which impacts on the ability of health services to attract and retain professional staff.

There is an increased demand for aged care accommodation in the region, particularly in the City of Mount Gambier. Aged care upgrades are being carried out at the Millicent and Bordertown facilities.

Education and Training

A number of schools in Mount Gambier and other regional centres such as Bordertown and Naracoorte are nearing capacity.

State Government regional planning strategies aim to strengthen Mount Gambier's central role in the region. This will require increased investment to provide equitable access to services.

The quality and capability of training facilities within the TAFE network has been improved. The State Government is working to develop partnerships with the Australian Government, Flinders University and University of South Australia to deliver a range of university courses in Mount Gambier. A number of university degree courses are now being offered through university partnerships with TAFE. In addition, medical and allied health services education is being made available through links with Flinders University.

Science, Technology and Innovation

The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) operates regional research and development (R&D) facilities at Struan and Mount Gambier that provide support to the agriculture and seafood industries. Struan House, delivers science, technology and innovation programs.

Waste Management

The South East Local Government Association (SELGA) has developed a waste management plan for the region that focuses on the minimisation, recycling and re-use of waste, with landfill disposal being the least preferred option. The plan identifies the need for centralised facilities, which would mean closing a number of rural landfill sites.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Country Arts SA has embarked on a strategic plan to upgrade the existing regional theatres including the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre at Mount Gambier. The theatre is an important venue for recreational and cultural activities for young people and families in these regions; it provides venues for live touring performances and creates opportunities for developing community-based cultural activities. The existing infrastructure was constructed about 20 years ago which is why the current upgrade of theatres is so important.

Projects

Project	Priority #	2005/6– 2009/10	2010/11– 2014/15	SASP Targets
Energy				
Strengthening and augmentation of the electricity supply network				
■ Undertake transmission network upgrades	U/way	*		5.11
■ Carry out sub-station upgrades	U/way	*		5.11
* Lead – private sector				
Alternative supply of gas to Katnook gas users and industrial businesses at Naracoorte				
■ Build gas laterals from SEA Gas pipeline to Katnook and Naracoorte	U/way	*		1.6
Lead – private sector				
Renewable energy supplies				
■ Investigate the viability of biomass power generation from timber waste	1	*		3.10
Lead – private sector				
Water				
Water resource management				
■ Implement the SECWMB plan	U/way	*		1.5
■ Complete drainage program in Upper South East	U/way	*		3.1
Lead – local government, State Government				
Wastewater re-use at Tantanoola				
■ Develop options to harvest and re-use KCA's wastewater resource	1	*		1.6
Lead – private sector				
Capacity and environmental performance of STEDS				
■ Upgrade STEDS servicing applicable towns	2	*	*	5.11
Lead – local government				
Water resource development potential of the Eight Mile Creek Catchment				
■ Collect and analyse data to determine if the Eight Mile Creek Catchment should and could provide an environmentally sustainable yield	3	*		1.12
Lead – local government, State Government				

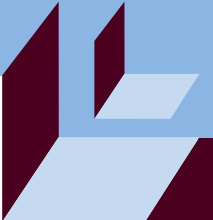
* Lead – lead responsibility for promoting, developing and evaluating the project.

Priority – preliminary rankings. Priority numbers do not represent a final commitment by the State Government or other lead entities. See the Delivering the Plan section for further details.

Project	Priority	2005/6– 2009/10	2010/11– 2014/15	SASP Targets
Transport				
Movement of freight between Limestone Coast and Victoria				
■ Work with the Victorian Government to facilitate the use of rail to transport freight between SA and Victoria (Portland)	1	*		1.12
■ Develop plans to manage growth in freight including road improvements and heavy vehicle detours of key towns eg Penola, Mount Gambier	1	*	*	2.9
■ Leverage Australian Government funding to provide additional transport infrastructure	2	*	*	1.12
■ Upgrade the Riddoch Highway and the Princes Highway section along the Coorong	2	*	*	1.6
■ Identify the preferred site for a regional intermodal facility as part of a state-wide intermodal strategy	3	*		2.9
Lead – Australian and State governments, private sector				
Land				
Forestry management				
■ Establish new headquarters for Forestry SA	U/way	*		1.18
Lead – State Government				
Coastal marine facilities at Cape Jaffa				
■ Develop a combined public/commercial marina and upgrade recreational facilities to cater for aquaculture and recreational/commercial fishing activities	2	*	*	5.8
Lead – private sector				
Availability of serviced large-scale industrial sites				
■ Investigate the potential location of future industrial sites in consultation with industry	2	*		1.12
■ Develop an industrial estate at Mount Gambier	2	*		1.6
Lead - local government				
Information and Communications Technology				
Access to broadband				
■ Develop a business case that identifies sufficient aggregated demand to justify installation of broadband	2	*		4.7
Lead – private sector				

Projects

Project	Priority	2005/6– 2009/10	2010/11– 2014/15	SASP Targets
Health				
Aged care facilities				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more residential aged care facilities through redevelopment of hospital facilities at Millicent and Bordertown 	U/way	*		2.2
Lead – Australian Government, State Government				
Primary health care centres				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Aboriginal Wellbeing Centre in Mount Gambier 	U/way	*		6.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to upgrade hospital facilities to better meet acute service requirements and support the co-located delivery of primary health care services including general practice, allied health, mental health and Aboriginal health programs 	2	*	*	2.2
Lead – State Government, private sector				
Housing				
Availability of affordable accommodation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the supply of affordable housing in Naracoorte and other centres 	1	*		5.8
Lead – private sector				
Education and Training				
Utilisation of school assets				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rejuvenate the existing built asset base to support improved utilisation, integration of services and future education provision 	U/way	*		6.14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake planned capital works at Mount Gambier high school and Kalangadoo preschool 	U/way	*		6.14
Lead - State Government, private sector				
Arts, Culture and Heritage				
Facilities for performing arts productions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre at Mount Gambier 	U/way	*		4.1
Lead - State Government				



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