



Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland

Overview

Geography

- RDA Murraylands and Riverland covers an area of 36,489 square kilometres or 3.7 per cent of the State's land mass. The area designated as agricultural land is 79.6 of the region.

Population

- As at 30th June 2010 the region had a population of 70,565 persons or 4.3 per cent of the State's population. The Indigenous population was 2.8 per cent, above the average for the State at 1.6 per cent.

Economy and Labour force

- The region contributed \$2,244 million to the State economy in 2006/07 or 3.6 per cent of gross state product.
- The unemployment rate in June 2011 was 2 percentage points above the average for the State and the labour force participation rate was 3 percentage points higher.
- The region has an above average rate for VET participation which reflects the industry and employment profile within the region, where agriculture is the largest contributor to regional gross value added and manufacturing, retail and health and community services are the three largest employing industries..
- NAPLAN results at year 3 are 8 percentage points below but by year 7 are only 5 percentage points below the State average.

Opportunities for growth

- The region is home to diverse agricultural and horticultural output and food processing and must continue to raise productivity, build world class intra-industry value chains and establish an international reputation as a food bowl.
- Tourism, eco-tourism and holiday destinations are key components of the economy and the region and offer significant growth potential.
- Strong projected population growth will increase the demand for building and construction and the demand for skilled labour, including associated investment in light industry, health and education. Population growth may also see a demand for a regional university.

Barriers to future growth

- It is imperative that improvements in participation in secondary education are achieved to support VET participation, improved skills and qualifications to sustain employment in new agricultural/horticultural industries and value added food processing.
- Addressing literacy and numeracy for all – new migrants, adults and school students – is a critical community challenge.

Indicators¹

Geography and Population

	RDA Murraylands and Riverland	South Australia
Geography		
Land area - square kilometres	36,489	985,292
Land area as a percentage of the state - per cent	3.7	100
Area of agricultural land (2006) - hectares '000	2,904	55,408
Demographics		
Total population (2010) - all persons	70,565	1,640,638
Males (2010) - all males	36,084	810,264
Females (2010) - all females	34,481	830,374
Change in population (2001-2010) - per cent change	3.1	9.0
Change in population (2001-2005) - per cent change	0.9	2.8
Change in population (2005-2010) - per cent change	2.2	6.0
Population as a percentage of state population (2010) - per cent	4.3	100.0
Population density (2010) - persons/square kilometre	1.46	1.67
Birth rate (2010) - babies born per 1,000 people	11.5	12.2
Death rate (2010) - deaths per 1,000 people	8.3	7.9
Population projections (Dept of Planning and Local Government) ²		
2016	72,371	1,770,644
2021	73,779	1,856,435
2026	75,014	1,935,161
Projected change in population from 2011 to 2026 - per cent	5.7	16.1
CAGR for region, 2011-2026	0.4	1.0
Age profile (2010)		
0-14 years	18.9	17.8
15-24 years	11.8	13.6
25-34 years	10.5	13.0
35-44 years	13.3	13.6
45-54 years	14.4	14.0
55-64 years	13.6	12.3
65-74 years	9.4	8.0
75-84 years	5.8	5.3
85 years and over	2.3	2.3
Indigenous population (2006) - all persons	1,969	24,823
Indigenous population as a percentage of total population (2006) - per cent	2.8	1.6

Note: ¹ All indicators exclude unincorporated areas of South Australia unless otherwise indicated.

² Section "C.1 Population" discusses discrepancies between population projections produced by Department of Planning and Local Government and those produced in the 30 year Greater Adelaide Plan and Murray Bridge Growth and Structure Plan.

Economy 2006/07

	Gross value ¹ added (\$m)		Gross value added - per cent of total gross regional product		Employment by industry - per cent of total employment	
	RDA M&R	South Australia	RDA M&R	South Australia	RDA M&R	South Australia
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	574	2,603	23.5	3.8	22.6	4.9
Mining	9	2,224	0.4	3.3	0.1	0.9
Manufacturing	334	8,815	13.7	12.9	12.5	13.4
Electricity, gas and water	68	1,884	2.8	2.8	1.0	0.9
Building and construction	113	4,432	4.6	6.5	4.8	6.6
Wholesale trade	138	2,765	5.6	4.0	5.9	4.4
Retail trade	141	3,829	5.8	5.6	14.4	14.9
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	48	1,476	2.0	2.2	4.2	4.4
Transport and storage	108	3,270	4.4	4.8	4.1	3.9
Communication services	23	1,467	0.9	2.1	0.7	1.3
Finance and insurance	45	3,993	1.8	5.8	1.3	3.9
Ownership of dwellings	202	6,074	8.3	8.9	0.0	0.0
Property and business services	99	6,533	4.1	9.6	4.1	9.3
Public administration and defence	50	2,417	2.0	3.5	3.5	5.4
Education	94	3,144	3.8	4.6	6.3	7.6
Health and community services	131	4,974	5.4	7.3	10.1	13.1
Cultural and recreational services	19	1,039	0.8	1.5	1.0	1.8
Personal services	48	1,547	2.0	2.3	3.4	3.9
Total²	2,444	68,327	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: ¹ The sum of gross value added across all industries plus taxes less subsidies on products equals gross regional/state product at purchasers prices. Gross value added for each region has been estimated by EconSearch using input-output (I-O) models. For additional information on gross value added and definitions of key terms, see ABS, Australian National Accounts, Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2000, Cat. No. 5216.0.

² Total does not include net taxes (i.e. taxes less subsidies on products and production) paid by households and other components of final demand. Therefore totals do not sum to 100 per cent.

Supportive Statistics

	RDA Murraylands and Riverland	South Australia
Trade¹		
Exports (2006/07) - \$ billions	2.1	27.4
Imports, (2006/07) - \$ billions	2.1	30.8
Labour force		
Labour force (June 2011)	37,201	861,537
Total employed (June 2011)	34,537	814,507
Total unemployed (June 2011)	2,764	47,030
Participation rate (2009)	66.2	63.1
Unemployment rate (June 2011) - per cent	7.4	5.5
Number of job service/disability employment service providers	40	450
Education		
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16 (2006) - per cent	74.9	78.4
Participation in VET courses (2009) - per 1,000 persons	90.1	73.5

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Murraylands and Riverland	South Australia
NAPLAN results² (2011) – average score		
Year 3		
Reading	368	402
Spelling	363	392
Numeracy	352	379
Year 5		
Reading	454	478
Spelling	454	474
Numeracy	447	471
Year 7		
Reading	507	534
Spelling	509	533
Numeracy	508	535
Health (Selected LGAs)		
Low birth weight babies (2006 to 2008) - as a percentage of total births	6.8	6.8
Mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy (2006 to 2008) - per cent	27.4	16.7
Children fully immunised at 12 to less than 15 months of age (2008) - per cent	91.1	91.8
Obese persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	21.9	17.4
Overweight (not obese) persons 18 years and over ³ (2007-08) – per cent	29.8	29.4
Housing characteristics		
Median house price (September quarter 2011) – Renmark - \$	175,000	360,000
Dwelling fully owned (2006) – per cent	37.1	33.7
Dwelling being purchased (2006) – per cent	28.9	33.5
Dwelling being rented (2006) – per cent	26.7	25.6
Rent assistance from Centrelink (March quarter 2011) - per cent of population	7.4	6.5
Average residential valuation (2010) - \$	196,271	344,446
Average rates per residential property (2010) - \$	902	1,065
Income		
Average wage and salary income (2009) - \$	33,708	41,896
Average own unincorporated business income (2009) - \$	11,341	19,659
Average investment income ⁴ (2009) - \$	5,598	7,651
Average superannuation and annuity income (2009) - \$	20,017	24,793
Income support (Selected LGAs)		
Age pension recipients (2009) - per cent	79.4	77.5
Disability support recipients (2009) - per cent	9.0	7.1
Single parent payment recipients (2009) - per cent	7.2	5.8
Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	5.7	4.5
Long-term unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	4.2	3.2
Youth Unemployment benefit recipients (2009) - per cent	9.0	6.1
Low income and welfare dependant families with children (2009) - per cent	11.5	9.5
Children in low income families (2009) - per cent	26.3	22.0
Health care card holders (2009) - per cent	11.6	8.8
Pensioner concession card holders (2009) - per cent	27.4	23.6
Total Centrelink card holders (2009) - per cent	31.7	26.8

Supportive Statistics (continued)

	RDA Murraylands and Riverland	South Australia
Tourism⁵		
Day visitors (2011)		
Number of domestic day trips – ('000)	908	10,472
Total expenditure by day trippers – \$m	74	944
Average expenditure by day trippers – \$	81	90
Number of overnight visitors (2011)		
Intrastate – ('000)	321	3,150
Interstate – ('000)	90	2,167
Domestic – ('000)	411	5,315
International – ('000)	11	530
Total – ('000)	422	5,845
Number of nights stayed (2011)		
Intrastate – ('000)	885	9,473
Interstate – ('000)	292	8,669
Domestic – ('000)	1,177	18,142
International – ('000)	121	8,454
Total – ('000)	1,298	26,596
Expenditure by overnight tourists		
Total domestic overnight expenditure (2011) - \$m	81	2,922
Average expenditure by domestic overnight visitor (2011) - \$	285	602
Characteristics of tourist establishments⁶ (2011)		
Establishments (no.)	21	266
Rooms (no.)	663	12,652
Bed spaces (no.)	1,947	34,583
Persons employed (no.)	516	7,138
Occupancy rate (per cent)	46.2	62.4
Environmental		
Greenhouse gas emissions (2005/06) - tonnes per person	24.0	20.0
Airports		
Passengers per annum (2010/11)	NA	7,756,574
CAGR of passenger numbers (2000/01 – 2010/11)	NA	5.1
Gambling		
No. of electronic gaming machines (2009/10)	801	12,684
NGR (2009/10) - \$/adult	541	571
Taxes (2009/10) - \$/adult	157	222
No. of EGM's per 1,000 adults (2009/10)	14.7	9.9

Note: ¹ The value of exports and imports at the regional level includes intrastate, interstate and international trade.

² NAPLAN scores for Murraylands and Riverland are based on a selection of DECS primary schools in Berri, Karoonda, Murray Bridge, Loxton and Renmark. NAPLAN results are reported using a common scale ranging from 0 to 1000 for years 3, 5, 7 and 9, the scale is divided into ten bands ranging from band one (lowest achievement) to band 10 (highest achievement) as students progress to higher year levels the national minimum standard band level increases reflecting the greater complexity of skills assessed. For more information on interpreting NAPLAN results see www.naplan.edu.au

³ Estimates of obese and overweight persons by LGA are based on synthetic predictions using 2001 NHS data

⁴ Investment income includes: interest from financial institutions, net rent and dividends or distributions (including imputation credits) from an Australian company, corporate unit trust or public trading trust and distributions from trusts.

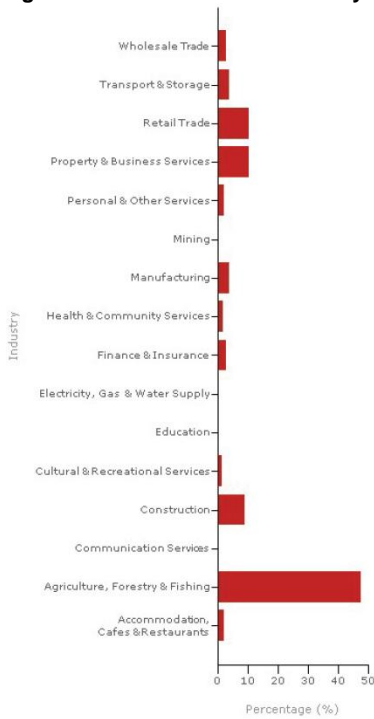
⁵ Tourism data on day visits, overnight visits, number of nights stayed, expenditure and characteristics of establishments is based on regional boundaries according to the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) and these differ slightly from Regional Development Australia boundaries (see regional and state profiles at <http://www.tourism.sa.gov.au> for maps of regions according to the SATC).

⁶ Accommodation includes hotels, motels and guest houses and serviced apartments with 5 or more rooms or units; holiday flats, units and houses of letting entities with 15 or more rooms or units; caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites and visitor hostels with 25 or more bed spaces. The breakdown of tourist establishments by type of accommodation e.g. hotels, motels, guest houses, bed and breakfast etc. is not available.

Summary graphs – businesses and employment by occupation

Figures 1 through 4 show data on the number of businesses by industry sector, number of businesses by employee ranges, number of businesses by turnover range and top five occupations by persons employed relative to South Australia.

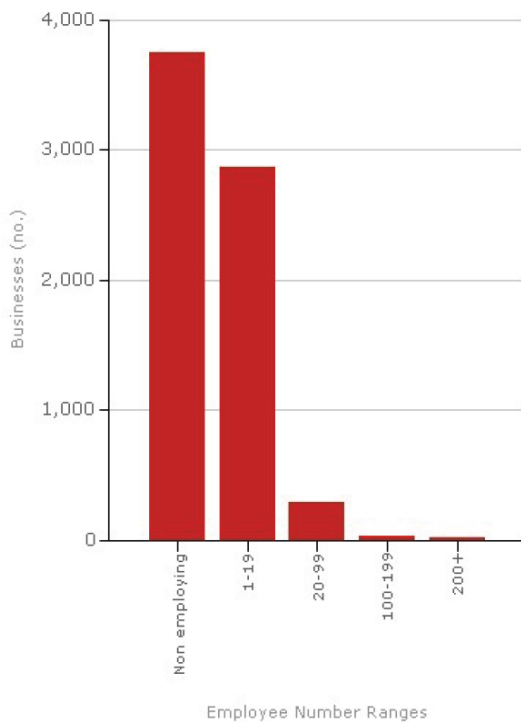
Figure 1: Number of businesses by industry – RDA Murraylands and Riverland, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1292.0. Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Murray and Mallee EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by industry (boundaries for the Murray and Mallee correspond with Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland boundaries).

Source: EasyData (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007).

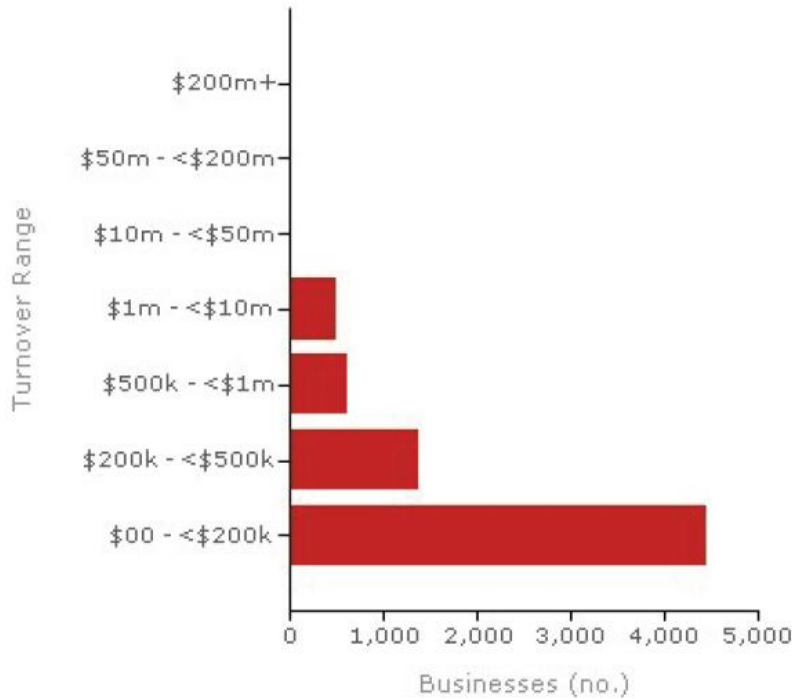
Figure 2: Number of businesses by employee ranges – RDA Murraylands and Riverland, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Murray and Mallee EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding number of businesses by employee ranges (boundaries for the Murray and Mallee correspond with Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland boundaries).

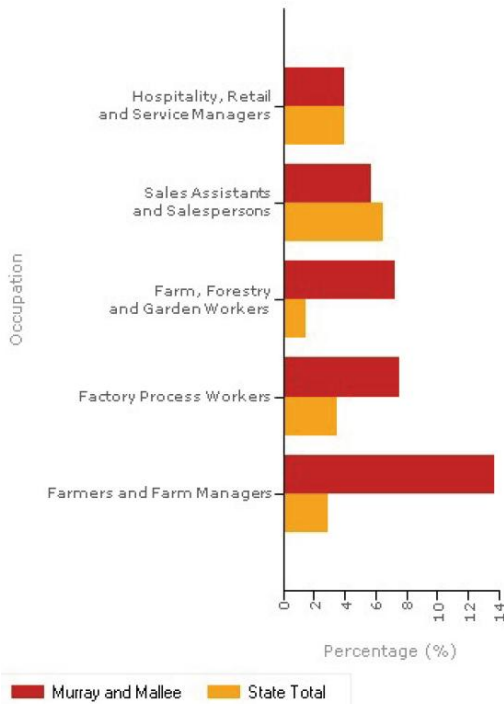
Source: EasyData (ABS, Cat. No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007).

Figure 3: Number of businesses by turnover range – RDA Murraylands and Riverland, 2006/07



Note: Businesses can operate in more than one state/territory. This data uses the main location determined for the business. For more information on the data source, please refer to the explanatory notes accompanying the Murray and Mallee EasyData profile, at the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy regarding the number of businesses by turnover range (boundaries for the Murray and Mallee correspond with Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland boundaries).
Source: EasyData (ABS, Cat No. 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007).

Figure 4: Persons employed by Occupation (top 5) – RDA Murraylands and Riverland, 2006/07



Note: Adheres to the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (ANZSCO) 2006, ABS Cat. No. 1220.0 Presented at the Sub-Major Group (or 2-digit) level. Applicable to employed persons only.
Source: EasyData (ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2006).

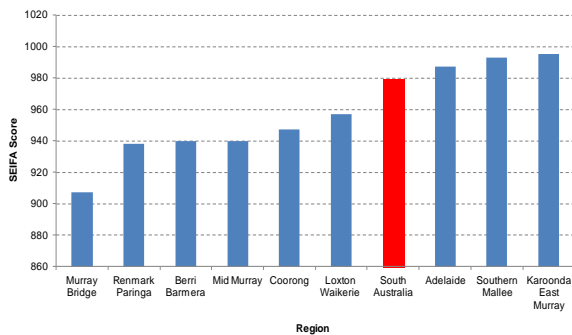
Indicators for local government areas

Figures 5 through 16 show selected indicators for Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDA Murraylands and Riverland) local government areas taken from the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) InstantAtlas. For comparison South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide are included in each graph. Brief commentary is provided of key trends or stand out characteristics in the data.

The provincial city of Murray Bridge is ranked lowest in terms of Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) scoring 907, significantly below the South Australian average (979) and metropolitan Adelaide (987). The most advantaged area is Karoonda East Murray (995) followed by Southern Mallee (993), (refer to Figure 5).

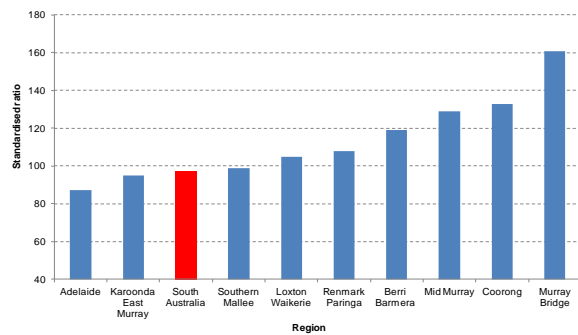
Based on a standardised ratio VET participation is highest in Murray Bridge (161), followed by Coorong (133) and Mid Murray (129), compared to the South Australia average (97) and metropolitan Adelaide (87) (refer to Figure 6).

Figure 5: Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

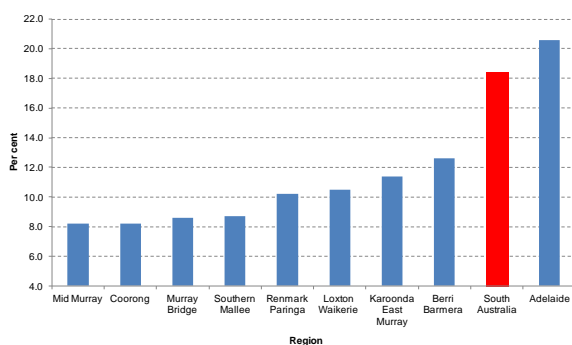
Figure 6: Participation in VET Standardised ratio, 2009



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

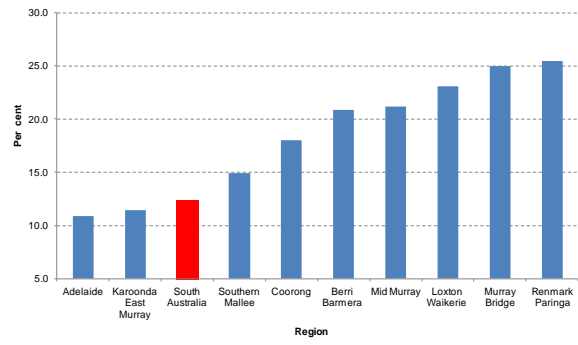
Professionals comprise a smaller proportion of the workforce in LGAs of RDA Murraylands and Riverland compared with South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide where they comprise 18.4 per cent and 20.6 per cent respectively, conversely workers identifying themselves as labourers are more common in the LGAs relative to South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide; (refer to Figures 7 and 8).

**Figure 7: Occupation – Professionals
Per cent of workforce employed as professionals by local government area, 2006**



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

**Figure 8: Occupation – Labourers
Per cent of workforce employed as labourers by local government area, 2006**

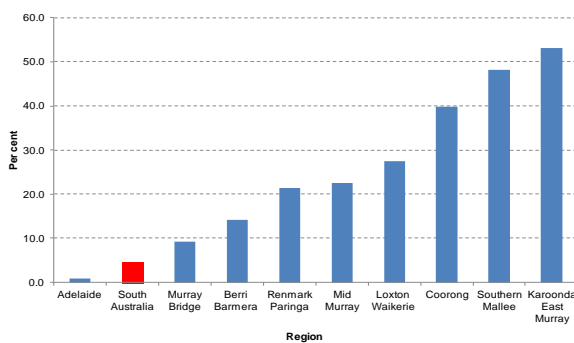


Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Karoonda East Murray has the highest proportion of their workforce employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing (53.1 per cent), followed by Southern Mallee (48.2 per cent) and Coorong (39.9 per cent). In Murray Bridge agriculture, forestry and fishing employs 9.2 per cent of workers, with other sectors i.e. manufacturing and services such as retail and health employing significant numbers, (refer to Figure 9).

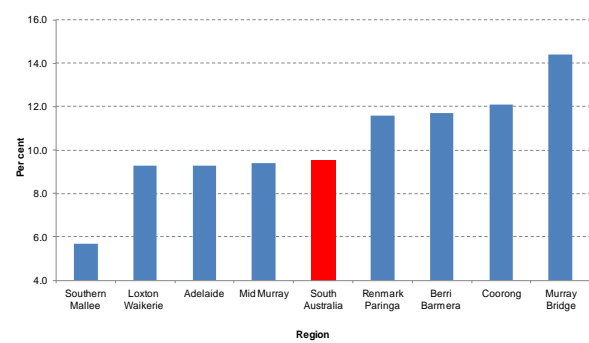
Murray Bridge has the highest proportion of low income families with children receiving income support (14.4 per cent) compared with 9.5 per cent across South Australia and 9.3 per cent in metropolitan Adelaide, (refer to Figure 10).

Figure 9: Industry – Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Per cent of workforce employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 10: Income support recipients
Per cent of welfare dependent and other low income families with children, 2009



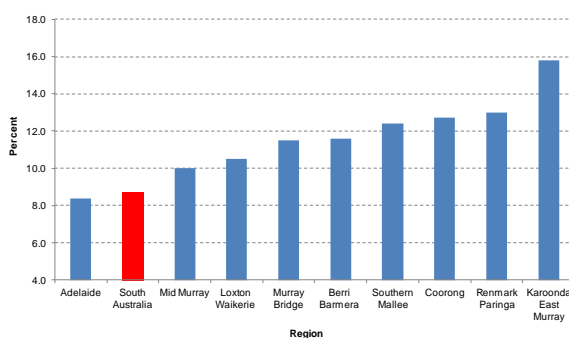
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Residents claiming Centrelink benefits such as, *inter alia*, the aged pension and allowances are automatically entitled to a health care card. The proportion of people holding a health care card is above the South Australian average (8.7 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (8.4 per cent) for all LGAs in RDA Murraylands and Riverland, (refer to Figure 11).

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers comprise a larger proportion of the population in all LGAs relative to metropolitan Adelaide (16.4 per cent) and South Australia (18.2 per cent) except in Karoonda East Murray, (refer to Figure 12).

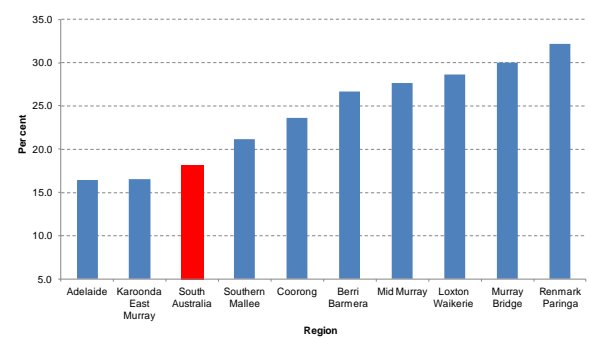
Participation in full-time secondary school education at age 16 is above the South Australian average (78.3 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (79.6 per cent) in Southern Mallee (96.3 per cent), Karoonda East Murray (81.3 per cent) and Coorong (80.8 per cent), (refer to Figure 14).

Figure 11: Health care card holders
Per cent, 2009



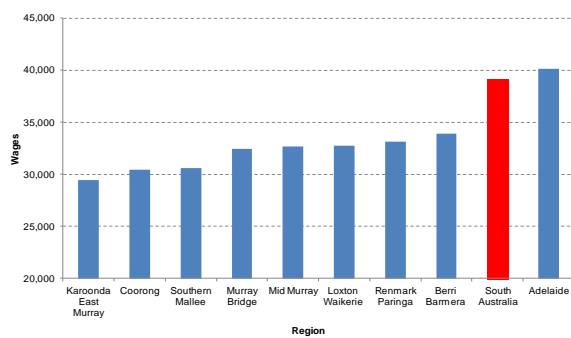
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 12: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers
Per cent, 2006



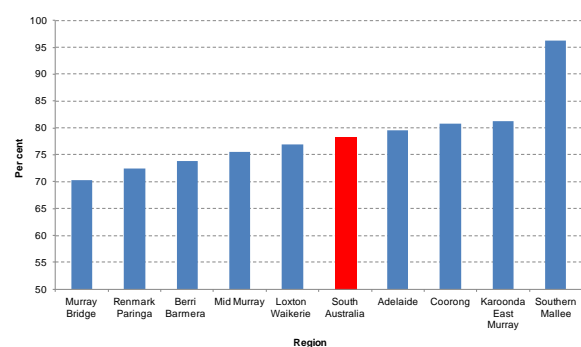
Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 13: Wages per capita
Dollars, 2005/06



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 14: Education
Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16, Per cent, 2006

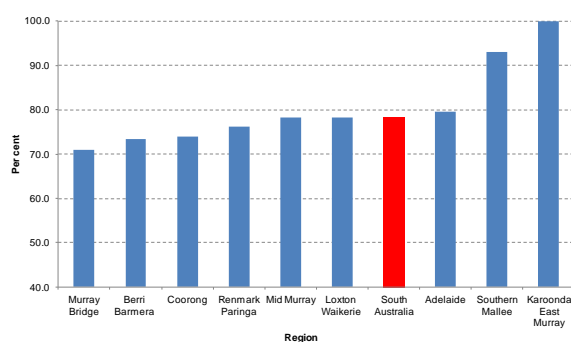


Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

The proportion of persons learning or earning at ages 15 to 19 is above the South Australian average (78.4 per cent) and metropolitan Adelaide (79.5 per cent) in Karoonda East Murray (100 per cent) and Southern Mallee (93.0 per cent), (refer to Figure 15).

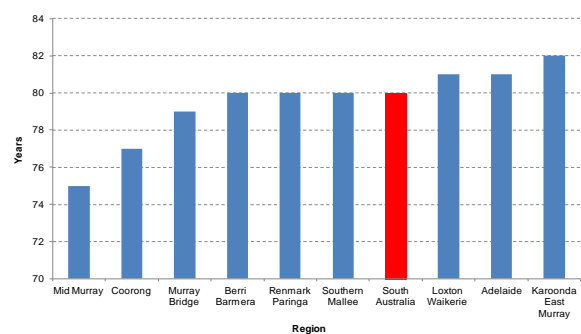
Median age at death for LGAs in RDA Murraylands and Riverland is similar to South Australia and metropolitan Adelaide, (refer to Figure 16).

Figure 15: Learning or earning
Per cent of 15 to 19 year olds either working or studying, 2006



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

Figure 16: Median age at death, 2003 to 2007



Source: PHIDU InstantAtlas.

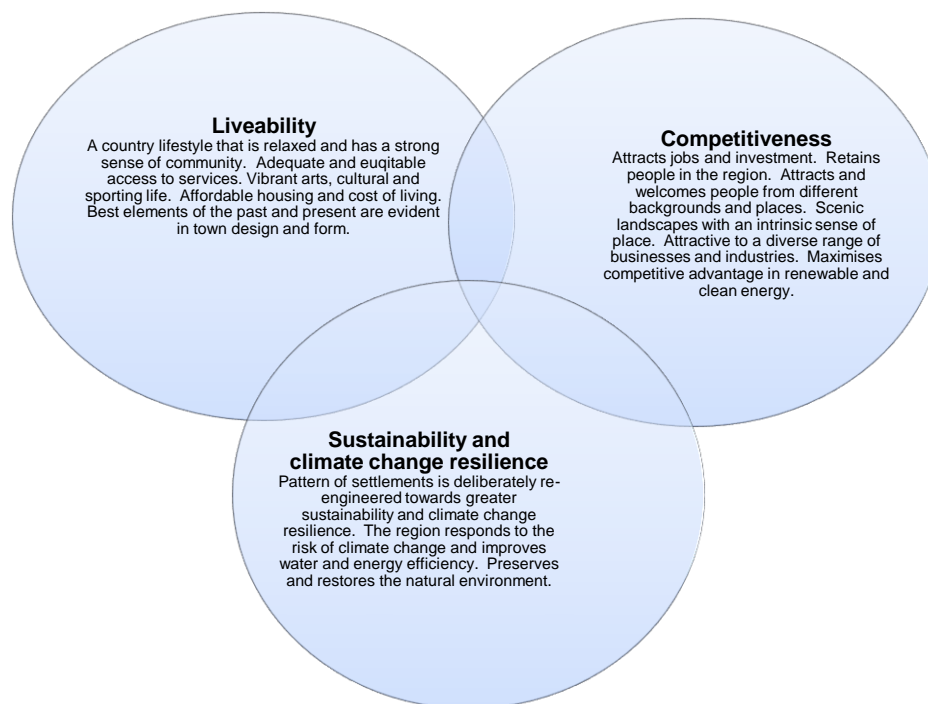
About the Murraylands and Riverland regional plan

The Murraylands and Riverland regional plan sets out the objectives of the region, helping state and local governments to plan for the provision of essential services and infrastructure and guide sustainable economic development and land use in the region.

The plan supports the achievement of a range of economic, social and environmental goals and is closely aligned to South Australia's State Strategic Plan, such that achieving regional goals and targets supports the achievement of state-wide objectives. In addition regional plans tie into state-wide plans for infrastructure, housing, water, natural resources management, waste management and South Australia's economic statement.

The plan has three overlapping objectives representing sustainable community development; these objectives are classified as; social, economic or environmental:

- Social - to maintain and improve liveability;
- Economic - to increase competitiveness; and
- Environmental - to drive sustainability and resilience to climate change.

Figure 17: Objectives of the regional volumes of the South Australian planning strategy

Source: Murray and Mallee Regional Plan, Volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy, January 2011.

Region at a glance¹

The RDA Murraylands and Riverland region comprises eight local government areas and covers an area of 36,489 square kilometres (excluding unincorporated areas²).

Local government areas:

- The Berri Barmera Council
- The District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- The District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Southern Mallee District Council
- Coorong District Council

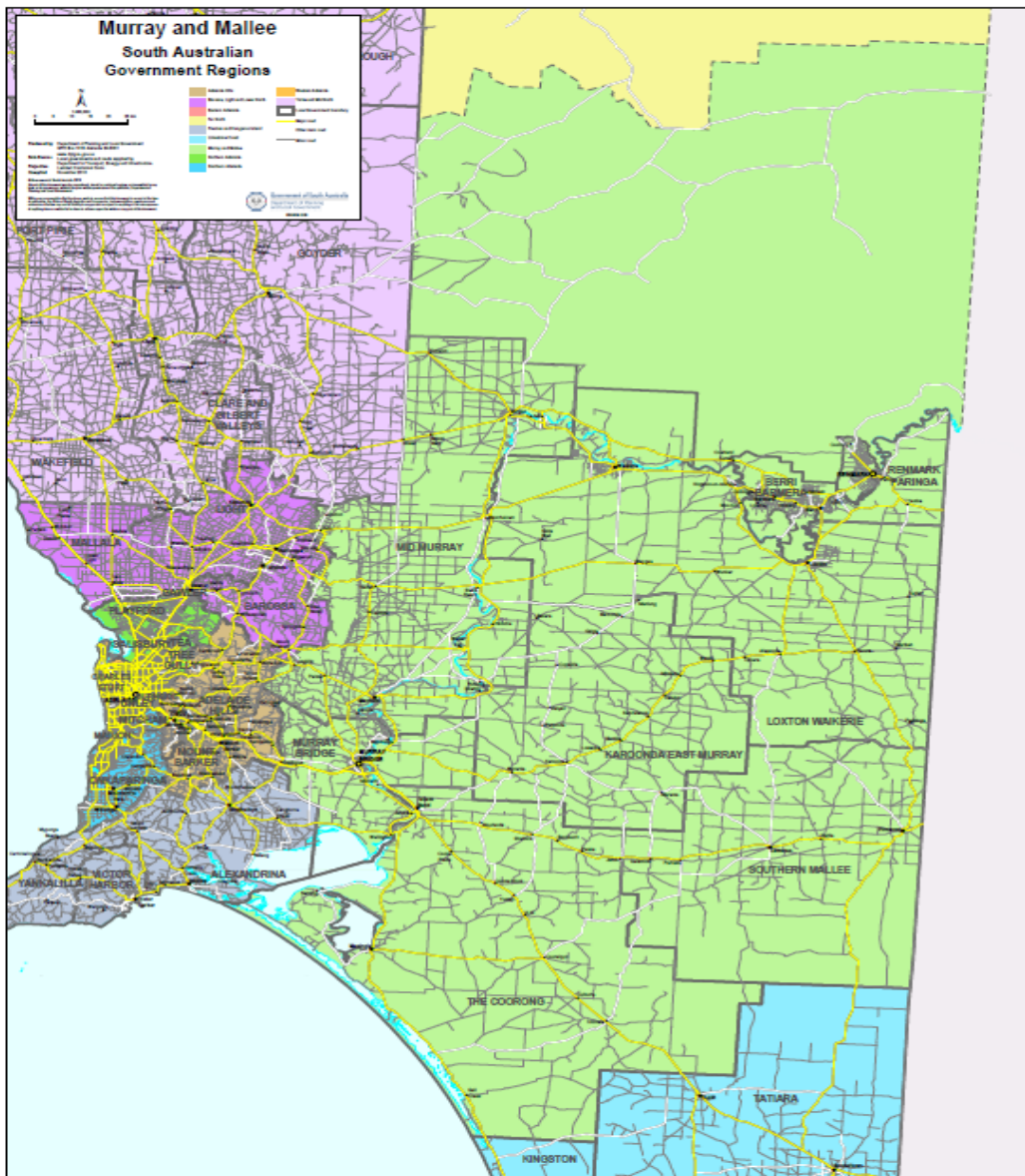
Unincorporated areas:

- Unincorporated Riverland
- Unincorporated Murray Mallee

¹ Descriptions, facts and key issues relating to the Murraylands and Riverland region are sourced from the Regional Roadmap 2011-2013 and the Murray Mallee Region Plan, January 2011.

² Unincorporated Riverland covers 11,519 square kilometres and Unincorporated Murray Mallee 179 square kilometres.

Figure 18: Map of Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland



Source: Department of Planning and Local Government of South Australia.

Facts about the Murraylands and Riverland region

- Has an estimated resident population of 70,565 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate).
- Economic activity is based on agricultural primary product production, including horticulture, viticulture, dairy farming and livestock production.
- Has a growing tourism industry attracting intrastate and interstate visitors to experience nature based experiences associated with the Murray River and local conservation parks.
- Contains the major regional centre of Murray Bridge with an estimated resident population of 19,577 persons (ABS, 2010, preliminary estimate), the city's economic activity is based on food production and processing.
- Has three smaller regional service centres, Loxton, Berri and Renmark.
- Contains major road and rail infrastructure linking the region with the eastern states.

Box 1: Additional information about Murraylands and Riverland

- In 2006 21.8 per cent of the Murraylands and Riverland workforce were employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- The region is dependent on agricultural production to provide employment and economic growth more than any other State region.
- Adverse economic impacts caused by drought, a wine grape glut, the global financial crisis and high Australian dollar have caused volatility in output from the region.
- New industry opportunities such as alternative energy, niche food processing, education and skills training, aquaculture and tourism require workers with specific skills, qualifications and experience not currently held by the majority of residents.
- Educational attainment in terms of high school retention in Murray Bridge is amongst the lowest in South Australia contributing to entrenched long-term unemployment and disadvantage.
- Indigenous Australians comprise 3.1 per cent of the population and suffer from higher rates of disadvantage such as unemployment, welfare dependence, health problems, and youth unemployment.
- Murray Bridge has attracted 41 per cent, or 215, of the 529 overseas migrants moving to the region, it has proven challenging to provide them with basic numeracy and literacy education to permit transition to full-time employment.
- The region has focused on ensuring disadvantaged residents such as recent migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds, Indigenous Australians and people with disabilities have access to education and skills training.
- By developing regional strengths and advantages in agriculture, food processing, and tourism it is hoped this will bring long-term economic growth and provide employment opportunities for the most marginalised and disadvantaged residents.

Source: Skills for Jobs, The Training and Skills Commission's five year plan for skills and workforce development, 2011.

Key Issues for the region

Consultation with local governments, industry groups and communities revealed issues of most concern. Together these issues can be grouped under four themes, (A) environment and culture, (B) economic development, (C) population and settlements and (D) infrastructure and service provision.

Underlying each theme are principles and policies (e.g., as in A: Environment and Culture) to help realise the regions vision and full potential. Issues, challenges, opportunities and barriers highlighted in the RDA Murraylands and Riverland Regional Roadmap are grouped under each of the four themes and commentary is drawn from the RDA Roadmap (as in A.1, A.2, B.1 etc).

A. Environment and culture – Principles and policies

- *Recognise, protect and restore the region's environmental assets;*
- *Create the conditions for the region to adapt and become resilient to the impacts of climate change;*
- *Protect people, property and environment from exposure to hazards;*
- *Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character.*

A.1 Climate change – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Consequences of climate change are reduced water availability, floods, bushfires and loss of native habitat causing greater variability in agricultural output.
- Current water allocations to primary producers are threatened by predicted long term reductions of Murray River water inflows adversely affecting the sustainability of producers.
- Changes in agricultural practices such as the use of drought tolerant crops and improved water management techniques e.g. sustainable irrigation, recycling, stormwater capture and storage and water trading are necessary to adapt to climate change.

A.2 Water – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- The Murray River is the primary water source for irrigators but over recent years has experienced low inflows due to drought and over allocation of water entitlements.
- Current water practices are unsustainable; the Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan (released November 2011) was established to provide equitable access across states in an environmentally sustainable manner to ensure the long term survival of the river.
- South Australia established the Murray Futures program to enhance management of the Murray from the Victorian border to the Murray mouth, \$610 million will be used to secure the water supply for Lower Lake's residents ensuring long term survival of the region, uptake of more efficient irrigation technology will be encouraged, management of wetlands and floodplains will be improved and water allocations will be bought back from willing sellers.
- These measures recognise sustainable water use solutions and involve three elements social (behavioural changes), environmental (different water use practices) and economic (diversification and innovation).

A.3 Renewable energy – Issues identified in the RDA Roadmap

- Little of the forecast growth in renewable energy generation capacity is predicted to occur in the RDA Murraylands and Riverland region but potential exists for development of renewable energy sources such as, wind, solar and biofuels.
- The Green Grid feasibility study has recommended construction of a 500kV transmission line, linking wind farms on the Eyre Peninsula from Port Augusta to Heywood in Victoria, providing improved access to the transmission grid for renewable energy ventures in the Riverland and Taillem Bend region.
- There are limited opportunities for geothermal energy generation using current technology.

B. Economic development – Principles and policies

- *Protect and strengthen the economic potential of the region's primary production land;*
- *Reinforce the region as a preferred tourism destination;*
- *Provide and protect serviced and well-sited industrial land to meet projected demand;*
- *Focus commercial development in key centres and ensure it is well-sited and designed;*

B.1 Mining – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Mining activity is limited and is primarily focused on the extraction of mineral sands at Mindarie, construction of the mine was completed in 2007 but production has been stood down since October 2009.
- A growing number of local residents have found employment in mining related jobs in adjacent regions such as the Adelaide Hills and Far North e.g. Roxby Downs, using fly-in fly-out services.

B.2 Tourism – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- The Riverland is a popular tourist destination for Adelaide residents offering recreation activities along the Murray River and nature based (eco-tourism) experiences at Monarto Zoological Park, Banrock Station and nature reserves.
- Barriers constraining further growth of the industry are lack of serviced tourist accommodation, camping sites, access roads and tracks.
- Extended periods of drought resulting in reduced water levels in the Murray River altered travel behaviour, some tourists made either fewer visits, shorter visits, spent less money or in some cases ceased visits entirely.
- Strong recent inflows into the Murray River give the opportunity to rebuild the tourism market and associated infrastructure, some proposed developments include: a marina, regional convention centre and new sports facilities at Berri and Barmera.
- It is hoped the proposed \$100 million redevelopment of Tailem Bend Motorsport Park will attract major motorsport events and draw visitors from Adelaide.

B.3 Agriculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Agricultural produce includes: broadacre grains, livestock, horticulture, fruit, nuts and wine grapes produced primarily on farms situated along the Murray River, especially in the Riverland and Murray Bridge regions.
- Economic activity is dependent on agriculture more so than other regions increasing the sensitivity of the economy to global commodity prices and events such as drought and climate change.
- Although irrigators are world leaders in water use efficiency old water entitlements are over allocated due to the effects of drought and overuse by upstream irrigators in Victoria and New South Wales.
- Dairy farms between Mannum and Wellington have ceased operation due to high water prices, water restrictions, drought and low milk prices, providing the opportunity for new primary production activities.

B.4 Aquaculture – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- There is potential for cultivation of marine fish such as Tommy ruffs, snapper, brine shrimp, flounder, King George whiting, yellow tail king fish and black bream using saline ground water.
- Investors are being sought for inland saline aquaculture in the Coorong, Waikerie and Loxton.

B.5 Economy – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Growth sectors of the economy include manufacturing and processing, transport and logistics, energy production, intensive agriculture, retail and trade, education, health care and tourism.

C. Population and settlements – Principles and policies

- *Strategically plan and manage the growth of towns;*
- *Design towns to provide, safe, healthy, accessible and appealing environments;*
- *Provide residential land for a supply of diverse, affordable and sustainable housing to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors;*

C.1 Population – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Population projections by the Department of Planning and Local Government (DPLG) are based on conservative assumptions and do not align with projections in the RDA Roadmap, 30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide and Murray Bridge Urban Growth Management Plan.
- DPLG predicts growth of approximately 4,500 additional residents in the region between 2010 and 2026, in comparison the 30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide predicts growth of 9,000 residents in Murray Bridge alone over 30 years and the Murray Bridge Urban Growth Management Plan projects a possible doubling of Murray Bridge's population over 20 years.
- Population growth based on these plans suggests the region will have additional growth of 8,000 to 9,000 persons by 2026 on top of DPLG projections.
- Over the longer term Murray Bridge could grow to between 50,000 and 100,000 residents; strategically located along the South Eastern Freeway growth corridor.
- To cope with increased demand for residential housing in Murray Bridge additional land releases would be required, the Greenfields Development proposes to free up 1,400 hectares of residential land upon which 11,000 new dwellings could be constructed.
- Approximately 850 hectares of land would be set aside for general/light industrial zoned land and retail, health and education developments.
- Growth of the Riverland sub-region in comparison to the Murraylands region is slower due to the outward migration of residents associated with more limited opportunities and a decline in irrigation.
- Smaller dryland and riverside communities experiencing slower population growth have appealed to the lifestyle benefits of living in a rural community as a strategy to attract "tree-changers" to move into the region.
- Small communities also have the opportunity to position themselves as affordable destinations for fly-in fly-out mine workers to live.

C.2 Education, skills and unemployment – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- Since mid 2009 unemployment has increased across the region compared with a decline in the state average.
- Residents with a year 12 or equivalent qualification is below the state average, conversely residents with non-school qualifications (specialising in agriculture) are above state average.
- The roll-out of the high speed broadband network will enable better access to electronic learning resources improving the quality of online education for remote students.
- Indigenous students have limited access to early childhood education, poor literacy and numeracy and low high school retention rates.
- Overseas migrants from China, Afghanistan, Sudan and Uzbekistan have settled in Murray Bridge and filled labour shortages, may have found work at T&Rs meat processing plant and the Big W distribution centre.

D. Infrastructure and services provision – Principles and policies

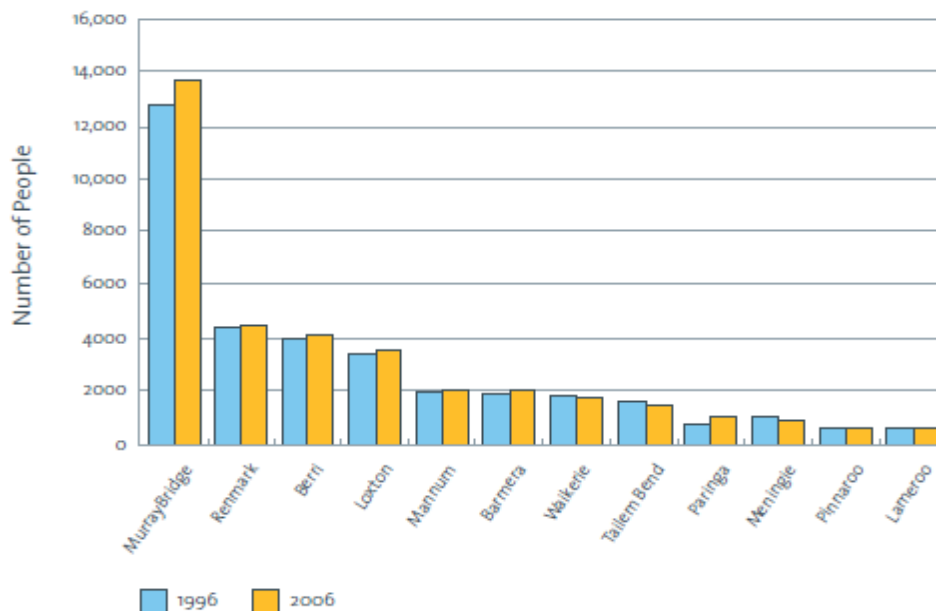
- *Protect and build on the regions strategic infrastructure;*

D.1 Infrastructure – Issues identified in RDA Roadmap

- To accommodate population growth in Murray Bridge Infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, police stations, energy generation and transmission, natural gas transmission and reticulation and telecommunications will be needed.
- Infrastructure challenges include the provision of sewer, storm water drainage and fresh water supplies all of which currently operate at either full or close to full capacity and require substantial upgrading or augmentation to cope with future population demands.
- Murraylands region has proposed to build an education precinct involving refurbishment of existing TAFE facilities, creating a new independent learning centre and establishing a university presence. Support for the cost of infrastructure is still needed from the government.
- Riverland region has proposed to become an education precinct based around the existing Flinders University rural school. Initial funding of \$2 million has been secured but support for the cost of the infrastructure is still needed from the Federal Government.
- Construction of a rail freight bypass with headworks near or at Monarto as part of the Monarto Economic Zone is expected to create 3000 jobs over the next decade.

Figure 19 shows aggregate populations of major towns in the Murraylands and Riverland region for census years 1996 and 2006.

Figure 19: Population of cities and towns in the Murraylands and Riverland region 1996 and 2006



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 1996 and 2006.

Major projects

The following section contains a list of major projects in the RDA Murraylands and Riverland region which have been approved, are in progress or are under consideration as outlined in the South Australian government's Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Murray Bridge

Project Title: Murray Bridge Green Shopping Centre
Organisation: Leedwell Property Pty Ltd
Project details: Refurbishment of existing shopping centre and construction of 10,000 sqm of new retail space adjacent to the existing centre.
Project cost: \$42 million
Estimated completion date: 2013
Status: Finalising development application

Project Title: Murraylands Life
Organisation: Said Property Developments Pty Ltd
Project details: Construction of an environmental and sustainable lifestyle retirement village with 264 lifestyle living dwellings, 131 tourist cabins and community facility located on the old Puzzle Park site at Murray Bridge.
Project cost: \$95 million
Estimated completion date: 2020
Status: Approved

Project Title: Murray Bridge Training Area Hardened and Networked Army Facilities
Organisation: Australian Government Department of Defence
Project details: Provision of infrastructure around the Murray Bridge area to support the establishment of a mechanised battlegroup located in the Edinburgh Defence Precinct.
Project cost: \$16.8 million
Estimated completion date: 2012
Status: In progress

Project Title: Murray Bridge Police Station
Organisation: SA Police
Project details: Construction of a new police station at Murray Bridge.
Project cost: \$12.6 million
Estimated completion date: October 2012
Status: 2011-12 Capital Investment Statement

Mannum

Project Title: Cherokee Power Station
Organisation: Tungkillo Power Company Pty Ltd
Project details: Two stage development of an open-cycle, gas-fired peaking power station at Tepko north of Murray Bridge, funded by Investec Bank Australia Ltd. Negotiations for tolling agreements for the first stage of the operation are underway.
Project cost: \$750 million
Estimated completion date: 2014 (first stage 250MW)
 2021 (final stage)
Status: Under development

Project Title:	Mannum Green Shopping Centre
Organisation:	Leedwell Property Pty Ltd
Project details:	Stage 1 - Construction of 4,500sqm of new retail shopping centre comprising a supermarket and specialty stores. Stage 2 - Development of additional bulky goods retail outlet, hotel and car wash.
Project cost:	Stage 1 - \$14 million (estimated) Stage 2 – \$16 million (estimated)
Estimated completion data:	Stage 1 – Late 2012 Stage 2 – 2013
Status:	Construction commencing late 2011

Other Murraylands and Riverland

Project title:	Murray Futures Program – Riverine Recovery
Organisation:	Department for Water
Project details:	Approved project to improve the management of Murray River wetlands and floodplains from the South Australian border to Wellington.
Project cost:	\$98 million
Estimated completion date:	June 2016
Status:	In progress

Table 1: South Australian local government capital expenditure for 2011/12

Council	Local government expenditure 2011/12 (\$)
Berri Barmera Council	7,320,000
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	3,300,000
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	3,166,000
Mid Murray Council	2,764,000
Rural City of Murray Bridge	12,873,000
Renmark Paringa Council	690,000
Southern Mallee District Council	3,534,000
Coorong District Council	6,000,000

Source: South Australian Major Developments Directory 2011/12.

Other major projects in the Murraylands and Riverland³

Project Title:	Riverland Reactive Support Stage 1 (Monash)
Sector:	Minerals and energy
Project cost:	\$5 million
Estimated completion date:	2014
Status:	Under consideration

³ From p. 9 of the Training and Skills Commission Consolidated Briefing for the Murray and Mallee state government region.

Project Title: Berri Hospital Redevelopment
Sector: Education, health and other services
Project cost: \$41 million
Estimated completion date: 2014
Status: Approved

Project Title: Murray River Salt Interception Program
Sector: Water management
Project cost: Not available
Estimated completion date: 2013
Status: In progress

Project Title: Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan – additional social housing
Sector: Urban development
Project cost: Not available
Estimated completion date: 2012
Status: In progress

Project Title: Remote Indigenous Housing - upgrades
Sector: Urban development
Project cost: Not available
Estimated completion date: 2019
Status: In progress

Table 2: Potential new projects RDA Murraylands and Riverland

Project	Project cost (\$m)
Multi grain collection and value add area at Taillem Bend	120.0
Adelaide Mushrooms expansion	45.0
Race Club redevelopment of existing course	200.0
Upgrade of golf course as part of racecourse redevelopment	5.0
Gifford Hill housing and commercial investments over next decade	125.0
Racecourse redevelopment (currently underway)	32.0
Pacific Hydro wind farm	180.0
Cross regional water project Mount Barker to Murray Bridge via economic zone (Monarto)	180.0
Green energy manufacturer (plant)	30.0
Taillem Bend Motorsport Park next decade	45.0
Stock feed manufacturing plant	18.0

Source: Correspondence with Brenton Lewis, CEO of Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland.

Appendix A

Selected Statistics: Labour market outcomes

Murray and Mallee

Population	RDA Murray and Mallee	% of State Total	South Australia
Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2010	70,705	4.3%	1,644,582
Net Change in ERP 2009 to 2010	279	-	20,992
Rate of Population Change (%)	0.4%	-	1.3%
% of Total Population			
Youth (15-24)	8,312	11.8%	13.6%
Mature (45-64)	19,791	28.0%	26.3%
Aboriginal – Census 2006	2,043	3.1%	1.7%
People with a disability (15-64) – Census 2006	1,355	3.2%	2.7%
Labour Force (Dept of Education & Workplace Relations: March 2011)			
Total Employed	34,291	-	812,100
Total Unemployed	2,788	-	47,200
Unemployment Rate	7.5%	-	5.5%
Participation Rate (June 2010)	63.3%	-	62.7%
Industry Employment (Census 2006)			
% of Total Employment			
Agriculture	6,419	21.8%	4.7%
Retail Trade	4,124	14.0%	14.7%
Manufacturing	3,760	12.8%	13.2%
Health and Community Services	2,858	9.7%	12.7%
Qualifications (Census 2006)			
% of Total Population (15 years and older)			
Degree or higher	2,843	5.3%	13.0%
Diploma	2,266	4.3%	6.5%
Certificate Level III or IV	7,389	13.9%	14.3%
Training (NCVER 2009)			
% of State Total			
VET Students	6,028	4.9%	121,851
Students reporting Disability	7.6%	-	6.2%
Aboriginal Students	5.7%	-	3.6%
Commencing Apprentices and Trainees (2008)	995	4.5%	21,960

Source: Data extracted from Workforce Wizard, DFEEST, November 2011.

Appendix B

Key points from the Training and Skills Commission consolidated briefing for Murraylands and Riverland⁴

Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) program activity

DFEEST supports skills and training development for adults with poor literacy and numeracy. Some specific programs are aimed solely at Indigenous Australians providing new skills and a certificate level qualification upon completion of their training. Programs on offer include:

- Adult Community Education (ACE) delivering four courses in the RDA Murraylands and Riverland region in 2011-12, two courses in foundation skills and two courses in multi-literacies.
- Aboriginal Access Centre (AAC) delivering courses in Certificate I in Introductory Vocational Education (IVEC), Certificate II in Community Services and family well being and Certificate II in Conservation Land Management in the Riverland Region with carpentry and maths skills taught in Murray Bridge.
- Productivity Places Program (PPP) has received funding of \$2.2 million to date from the Commonwealth government, 585 participants have completed the program obtaining qualifications largely in the health and community services, building and construction and business and financial services.
- South Australia Works initiatives in RDA Murraylands and Riverland include the formation of the Riverland Career Development Centre, Riverland Training Fund, Australia and Beyond initiative, Indigenous employment works, work abilities and the Regional Work Ready initiative.
- These initiatives help disadvantaged job seekers such as recent migrants, Indigenous Australians, people with disabilities and other un-skilled workers find employment by providing job seekers with skills to successfully find work and manage their own careers.

TAFE SA Regional in the Murraylands and Riverland Region

Tables B.1 through to B.3 draw on data from the Training and Skills Commission consolidated briefing, summarising aggregate TAFE enrolments, enrolments by gender and courses on offer at regional campuses.

Table B.1: TAFE SA enrolments, aggregate number, by campus

Campus	Students (actual individuals)		
	2010	2011 – Year to date	Approximate percentage change
Waikerie	131	25	-81
Murray Bridge	1,291	696	-46
Berri	1,043	876	-16
Renmark	768	534	-30
Total	3,233	2,131	-34

Source: Training and Skills Commission, Consolidated Briefing, Murray Mallee.

⁴ See Training and Skills Commission, consolidated briefing for the Murray and Mallee state government region.

Table B.2: Student gender, per cent breakdown by campus

Campus	Students – male and female (approximate per cent)			
	2010		2011 Year to date	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Waikerie	27	73	44	56
Murray Bridge	69	31	75	25
Berri	61	39	58	42
Renmark	23	77	21	79
Total	54	46	56	44

Source: Training and Skills Commission, Consolidated Briefing, Murray Mallee.

Table B.3: Summary of courses currently delivered by campus

Courses with students in 2011	Waikerie	Murray Bridge	Berri	Renmark
Aboriginal Education		Yes	Yes	
Automotive Mechanical and Electrical		Yes	Yes	
Carpentry and Joinery		Yes		
Children's Services				Yes
Clerical Administration		Yes	Yes	
Community Services – Specialisation	Yes	Yes		Yes
Cookery			Yes	
Electrical			Yes	
Enrolled nursing				Yes
Environment, Conservation and Horticulture			Yes	Yes
Fabrication and Welding		Yes	Yes	
Farming			Yes	
Financial Services		Yes	Yes	
Hospitality			Yes	
Information Technology			Yes	
Literacy and Numeracy		Yes	Yes	Yes
Mechanical		Yes	Yes	
Retail		Yes		
Training and Assessment			Yes	
Wine Industry			Yes	
Women's Education Program				Yes

Source: Training and Skills Commission, Consolidated Briefing, Murray Mallee.

Apprenticeships

As at the 7th of November 2011 the RDA Murraylands and Riverland region had 594 apprentices in training. Of the 262 employers training apprentices approximately 75 per cent employ only one apprentice. The 25 per cent of employers training more than one apprentice tend to be group training organisations. The largest and most prominent employers of apprentices and the numbers they employ are listed in Table B.4 below.

Table B.4: Significant employers of apprentices in the Murraylands and Riverland region

Legal Name	Trading Name	Comments/trades	Apprentices
Sunraysia & Murray Group Training Ltd	Sunraysia & Murray Group Training South Australia	Group Training Organisation employing a broad number of trades	53
Murraylands Training & Employment Association of SA Inc	Murraylands Training & Employment Association of SA Inc	Group Training Organisation employing a broad number of trades	40
South Australian Water Corporation	SA Water	Electrical and engineering trades	15
Neindorf Electric Pty Ltd	Hansen Electric	Electrical and Refrigeration and Air conditioning trades	9
JMA Engineering Pty Ltd	JMA Engineering Pty Ltd	Engineering, mainly fabrication	6
Rosenthal Brothers Pty Ltd	Rosenthal Automotive	Automotive	5
Rural Press Printing Pty Ltd	Rural Press Printing Murray Bridge	Printing	5
The Renmark Hotel Inc	Renmark Hotel Motel	Cooks	5
Utilities Management Pty Ltd	ETSA Utilities Skill Enhancement Centre	Electrical (Power line)	5
Others	Various	Various	451
Total			594

Source: Venus Data Store, 8th November 2011, quoted in the Murray and Mallee Consolidated Briefing.

TAFE SA regional activity

- In 2011 TAFE SA Regional in RDA Murraylands and Riverland had 2,131 students across its four regional campuses of Waikerie, Murray Bridge, Berri and Renmark.
- Student enrolments have declined by 34 per cent since 2010, indicative of limited economic growth reducing demand for training and resulting in outward movement of residents to more prosperous regions with more opportunities for work.
- Slow economic growth is in large part caused by reduced access/entitlement to water and the ongoing drought leading to a number of irrigators leaving the land reducing output and employment across the agricultural sector.
- TAFE SA Regional has encouraged greater Indigenous enrolment in the region's campuses by engaging with traditional land owners, in 2011 145 students (6.8 per cent) identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- TAFE SA Regional is working closely with DFEEST, RDA and Murray Bridge Council to consider redeveloping the Murray Bridge TAFE campus.
- The four major regional secondary schools of Waikerie, Renmark, Loxton and Glossop in partnership with TAFE SA Regional, obtained \$4 million in funding for a new agricultural training centre at Renmark High School, an electro-technology program was started at Waikerie High School and an upgrade of the Manufacturing, Engineering and Transport workshop at TAFE SA Berri Campus.
- The upgraded Berri Campus workshop offers apprenticeships in automotive, fitting/machining, fabrication, welding and electrical and training in disciplines related to solar and wind power generation.
- Prior to the upgrade students wanting to undertake these courses needed to travel to Adelaide to receive training, the new workshop permits the majority of training to be done in the Riverland at Berri.
- Waikerie Secondary school and TAFE SA Regional share a cooperative agreement where local students do six months at the high school's electro-technology centre before progressing to the electro-technology centre at TAFE SA in Berri to complete a Certificate II in Renewable Energy.

- RDA Murraylands and Riverland region provides a Manufacturing, Engineering and Transport (MET) Program responsible for training 118 apprentices in 2011, compared with 77 apprentices six years ago.
- Growth in MET apprentice numbers can be attributed to the flexible nature of the courses with some components of the course undertaken on-line.
- The MET program has also expanded offering a range of short courses such as forklift operation and solar grid connection.