



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional
Development
Australia



YORKE AND MID NORTH

Business Plan

2026-29

July 2026

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Acknowledgement of country

RDA Yorke and Mid North acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Front cover photo - Port Vincent, Yorke Peninsula. Credit - South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC).

Chair's Message



The Board faces a pivotal moment at the current moment in time, balancing the pursuit of significant opportunities for the region While also supporting our stakeholders in navigating a host of persistent and evolving challenges.

The Yorke and Mid North is home to innovative businesses, resilient communities, and significant growth potential. We must build on these strengths to drive sustainable economic development, attract investment, and create opportunities for future generations.

Industries and populations continue growing steadily, driven by the economic opportunities provided by sustainable, high-quality offerings across agriculture, tourism, services and a number of areas of value-add manufacturing.

Potential for new growth is available to the region, with investments in renewable energy, transport infrastructure and land divisions precipitating new economic activities across data centres, batteries, freight and logistics hubs, retail and residential development.

These activities and prospective opportunities have significant upside potential for our regions, offering greater economic diversity and scale to support a wider range of services for our growing population.

But realising this growth potential requires significant planning and sustained efforts to develop the skills, infrastructure and support networks required to bring these activities to life, while also grappling with the challenges of sustained cost of living pressures, uncertainty in global events, and challenging trading conditions in many of sectors our regional economy has traditionally been strong in.

Our primary producers continue to demonstrate their ability to innovate and manage risk in the face of challenging climatic conditions, and severe disruptions in global commodity markets. Our wine sector does an exceptional job in meeting changing market conditions and evolving consumer demands. Our tourism businesses continue to develop their products and ability to engage consumers as they navigate events such as harmful algal blooms and disruption in global oil markets.

The Board is constantly working towards the strategic opportunities that propel our regional economy forwards, while also standing beside and supporting our stakeholders as they navigate the circumstances of today. To achieve this balance, the Board has identified four key focus areas within the confines of its strategic plan for delivering the greatest impact with and for our stakeholders over the next three years:

- **Water** – specifically, affordable and reliable access to potable water and sewerage networks, is the primary constraint preventing growth in housing and employment developments for which demand exists today. Greater investment now, and better planning for future needs, is required to achieve the immediate and future potential of our region.
- **Economic diversification** – our businesses and clusters of industries must continue to evolve to bring their exceptional capabilities to new markets and new opportunities. Greater breadth and depth of economic activity – rooted in and leveraging key areas of advantage – will provide opportunities for business to scale up and spread risk, creating new opportunities and greater resilience for the local economy.
- **Housing** – our population continues to grow while demographic changes reshape the way our communities live. Driving growth in housing supply, and greater diversity in housing types, is imperative for growing the communities and protecting the lifestyles we want and need in our region.

- **Engagement** – engaging with our stakeholders in the businesses, community organisations and individuals that comprise our communities to communicate the ways in which RDA Yorke and Mid North can support them in their activities to achieve their ambitions, and in doing so grow the economic prosperity, and enhance the liveability, of the Yorke and Mid North region.

RDA Yorke and Mid North will continue working collaboratively with our host of regional partners on these and other important initiatives to deliver impact for our stakeholders. In doing so, I want to acknowledge the importance of the continued support of our funding partners across State, local and Federal governments. This ongoing support is critical to our ability to service and support growth in our local economy and local communities.

I commend this business plan to you and invite you to engage and work with our organisation to continue making our region a more prosperous and liveable place for our communities.



Ali Paulett

Chair, RDA Yorke and Mid North

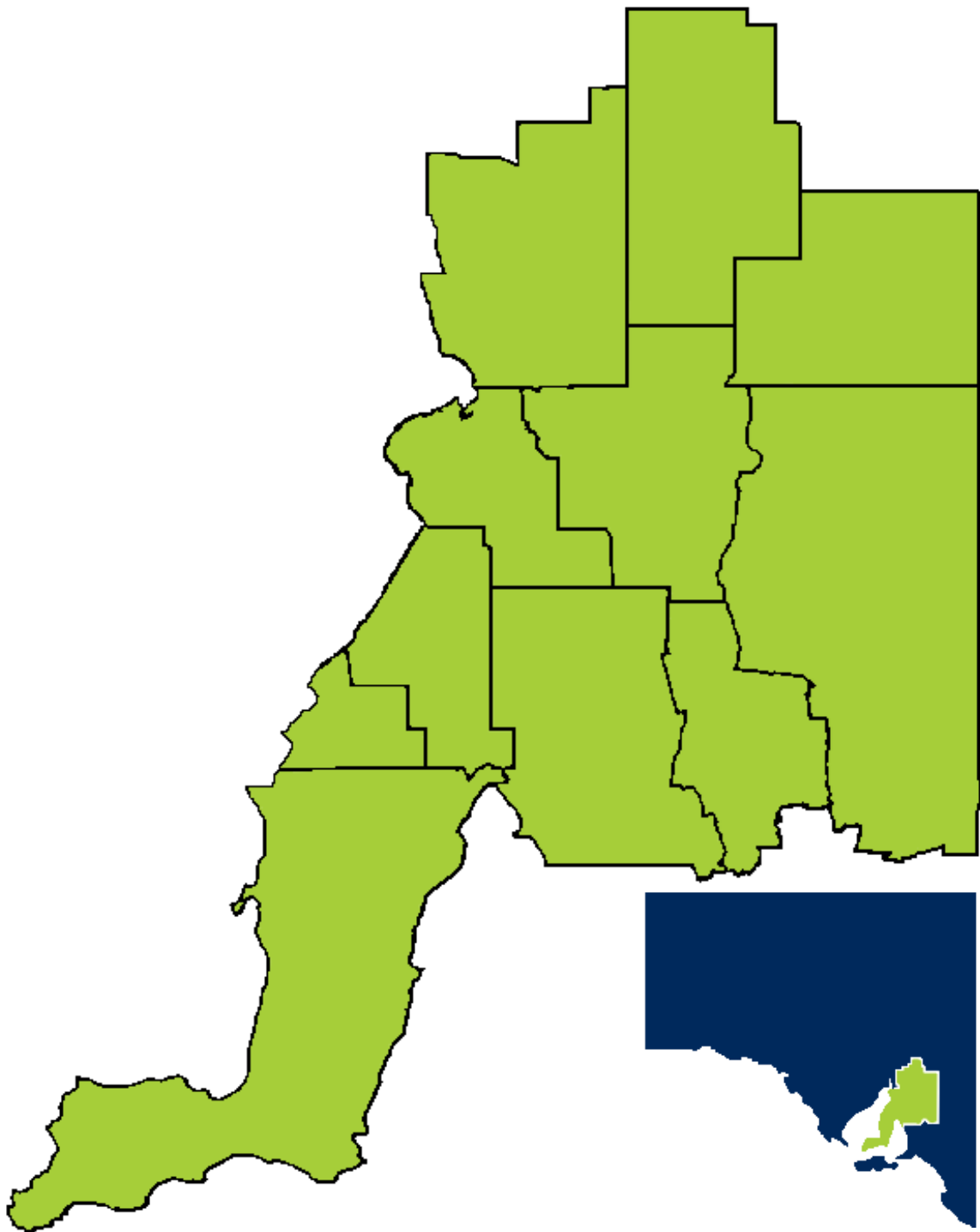


Photo: Melrose, Southern Flinders.

Regional Profile

REGION AT A GLANCE

The Yorke and Mid North region covers an area of 34,849km, spanning from Carrieton in the north to Hamley Bridge in the south, Eudunda in the east to the bottom of the Yorke Peninsula in the west. This region encapsulates some of Australia's most productive agricultural land, significant industrial manufacturing capabilities, exceptional natural assets combined and innovative small and medium businesses.



YORKE AND MID NORTH REGIONAL PROFILE



Total area
34,849 km²



Resident
population
79,930

REMPAN June 2026



Population
density
2.3 people
per km²



Population
median age
52

ABS 2024



Gross regional
product
\$4.732 billion

REMPAN



Local
businesses
7,786

ABS 2026



Employment
29,820 jobs

REMPAN June 2025



Labour force
32,065

REMPAN



Labour force
participation
52.7%

ABS Census 2024

Key employment sectors:

REMPAN



Agriculture,
Forestry &
Fishing
17.1%



Health care
and social
assistance
16.1%



Retail trade
9.7%



Local
Government
Areas

11

Local Government Partners: Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council | Barunga West Council | District Council of Mount Remarkable | Northern Areas Council | District Council of Peterborough | Wakefield Regional Council | Yorke Peninsula Council | Regional Council of Goyder | Copper Coast Council | Port Pirie Regional Council | District Council of Orroroo\Carrieton.

The Board

Our Board and staff are dedicated to making the Yorke and Mid North region an even better place in which to live, work, experience and invest. Our team brings their local knowledge and relationships together with economic, business and community development expertise to work collaboratively with industry, community and government to deliver projects and programs that improve the lives and livelihoods of those living and working in our region.

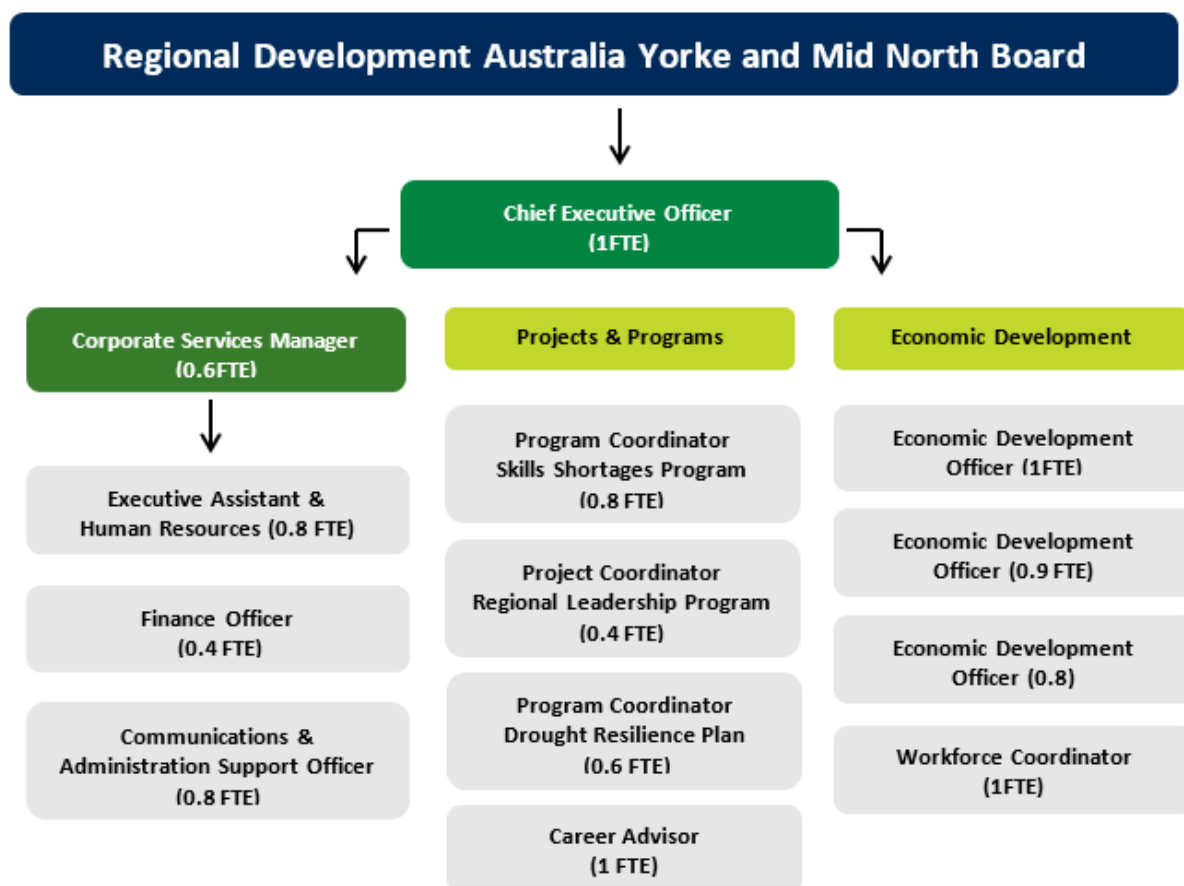
Table 1: Current Board Members¹

Ali Paulett	Chair	Clare Valley
Dr Helen Macdonald	Deputy Chair	Clare
Paul Thomas AM	Treasurer	Wallaroo
Gail Bartel	Secretary	Wallaroo
Lindsay Crouch	Board Member	Merriton
Lyndsey Jackson	Board Member	Moonta
Cr Sue Scarman	Board Member	Beetaloo Valley
David Stevenson	Board Member	Burra
Mayor Roslyn Talbot	Board Member	Kadina
Dr Gerry Considine	Board Member	Clare
Nikki Atkinson	Board Member	Nectar Brook
Andrew Christiansen	Board Member	Clare

¹ Members current as of July 2026.

Our organisation

Our organisation is governed by an experienced, independent, skills-based board with members drawn from across the region, sectors and industries in the Yorke and Mid North region, led by Bill Vandepeer as Chair. Executive leadership is provided by our Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Willson, who heads our dedicated team across our Port Pirie, Clare, and Kadina offices. The organisational structure of our small but dedicated team is illustrated below, comprising 13 staff in 10.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.



Our values

Our values provide the context for how we work collaboratively with others. They are the standard against which we hold ourselves and others accountable. We are committed to building a high performing, inclusive and sustainable workplace for the future that is based on these values which are integral to our culture.

Respect and honesty - to our colleagues and stakeholders, through our responsible and accountable actions taking into regard the feelings, wishes and rights of others.

Supportive and reliable - providing positive encouragement and sharing of knowledge and maintaining consistency in quality and performance.

Lead by example - empathetic and responsible, valuing all people, displaying understanding, consideration, and care for each other. Professional behaviour that delivers impactful results.



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

Regional Investment Framework

The Australian Government's approach to supporting strong and sustainable regions.

Purpose

The Framework is a new approach to how the Australian Government delivers regional investment – valuing local voices and priorities, being informed by and building the evidence, operating with flexibility, integrity and transparency, and coordinating across governments to make investments work better for regions. It provides an integrated and coordinated framework for regional development regardless of a region's economic circumstances.

Guiding Principles – applied across all Australian Government investments in all regions

- ✓ Realising the Government's ambition of "no one held back and no one left behind" requires specific regional investment across all portfolios.
- ✓ Australia's regions and their economies are diverse, with each having unique strengths and challenges.
- ✓ Delivering on the potential of regional Australia requires building on each region's unique strengths, including helping regions undergoing significant economic change to transition or adapt to specific structural challenges.
- ✓ Place-based decision making that draws on the experience of local government alongside regional bodies must guide investment in our regions.

Priority Focus Areas – our investments in regions will have key objectives across all Australian Government portfolios

- ✓ Meeting the needs of, and providing opportunities for, First Nations people.
- ✓ Supporting the transformation to a net zero economy and decarbonisation.
- ✓ Achieving gender equality.

Investing in People	Investing in Places	Investing in Services	Investing in Industries and Local Economies
			
Putting people at the forefront of growth, with local voices influencing decision making.	Targeted and place-based investment that enables communities to thrive.	Investment in regional services with a focus on improving quality and accessibility.	Ensuring regional industries and economies are positioned for sustainable growth.
✓ Listening to local voices and partnering with communities. ✓ Targeted investment in skills, education, training and local leadership capacity.	✓ Supporting adaptive, accessible, sustainable and liveable regions. ✓ Delivering infrastructure where and when it is needed.	✓ Enhancing connectivity, accessibility and equity of services. ✓ Investment including across communications, health, water, and transport.	✓ Investment to help activate economic and industry growth. ✓ Supporting the conditions needed for industries to diversify and grow.

Implementation



The Framework guides the Government's approach to design and delivery of regional initiatives. It will influence decision making in Budget processes, drive meaningful collaboration across and between governments, embed data and evidence to support better outcomes, and ensure local voices are heard and influence responses.

Informed Investment

- The Commonwealth's Budget and Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook processes will ensure the Framework is influencing Government decision making.
- Agencies across the Commonwealth will embed the Framework's principles and priorities in their proposals, with the support of a refreshed Regional Australia Impact Statement process.

Coordination and Collaboration

- A new and regular forum for engagement and collaboration between Australian Government agencies will ensure investments are complementary and coordinated.
- The Commonwealth will work in genuine partnerships with local and state and territory governments through refreshed, regular forums - supporting joined-up outcomes.

Insights and Intelligence

- Local insights, data and intelligence will be central to decision making, drawing on a broad range of groups and networks, such as local government and Regional Development Australia committees.
- Local insights, data and intelligence will contribute to evidence-based decision making and delivery of regular State of the Regions reports.

RDA Yorke and Mid North Strategic Plan 2024 – 2033

Our Purpose

To grow prosperity and enhance the liveability of our communities

Prosperity describes having both the means and ability to choose.

Liveability refers to the quality of life supported by a place, which is a function of the amenity, services and opportunities available.

Our Vision

A desirable region with an abundance of opportunity

Our Objectives

- Increased economic diversity** – greater capability and growth in sections of the economy that are growing sustainably.
- Greater economic prosperity** – real growth in economic prosperity for the population, with the benefits widely distributed.
- Better connections between people, places and markets** – stronger networks via improved infrastructure – both physical and digital.
- Sustainable population** – securing the critical population mass needed to support services and opportunities, without compromising environments.
- Better access to services** – improving the level and consistency of access to services and amenities needed for quality of life.
- Greater workforce opportunities** – greater capacity and higher engagement in the labour force.
- Improving outcomes across communities** – facilitating solutions to address disadvantage experienced by different groups within the community.
- Supporting the transition to net zero** – help stakeholders manage the transition to net zero by 2050, and manage costs of adapting to climate change

Our Priority Activities

Connecting people, businesses and stakeholders with relevant peers, projects, programs and networks to enable them to succeed.	Informing stakeholders to enable them to make better decisions by leveraging our knowledge, platforms and data to provide useful and insightful evidence.	Advising stakeholders on how to proceed with their initiatives given the options, resources and constraints available to them.	Planning (and trialling) projects, programs and initiatives with partners to maximise the chances of successful outcomes.
Supporting partners to deliver initiatives by providing technical inputs, third-party reviews and expertise.	Sharing examples and successes to inform stakeholders of new opportunities and to promote our partners and region.	Communicating the activities, outcomes, impact and value of our organisation to build engagement and understanding.	Advocating to ensure policy settings, programs and funding resources meet the needs of our communities and stakeholders within the region.

Progress Indicators

These progress indicators provide measures of progress against the outcomes RDA Yorke and Mid North seeks to achieve. The impact of our activities is reviewed via performance indicators included in our Annual Business Plan.



Approach to working with partners and stakeholders

RDA Yorke and Mid North works with a range of diverse stakeholders and partners to deliver our program of work. We work in partnership with other organisations to deliver positive outcomes for the region together.

Our approach involves working with partners to complement and leverage each other's respective strengths to maximise the impacts we can achieve for local communities, businesses, and industries. We deeply value our relationships with these stakeholders and partners and acknowledge the importance of these relationships (and their contributions) in achieving numerous outcomes for the Yorke and Mid North region.

Table 2: Funding and Delivery Partners



FUNDING PARTNERS

- Commonwealth of Australia
- Government of South Australia
- Barunga West Council
- Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
- Copper Coast Council
- Regional Council of Goyder
- District Council of Mount Remarkable
- Northern Areas Council
- District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
- District Council of Peterborough
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- Wakefield Regional Council
- Yorke Peninsula Council

REGIONAL PARTNERS

- Regional Development South Australia
- Northern and Yorke Local Government Association
- Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
- Workforce Australia

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

RDA Yorke and Mid North gratefully acknowledge the relationships with, and contributions made by, the numerous businesses, industry, and representatives' groups we work with on a daily basis in delivering our program of work across the region.

Communications

Role of the Communications Strategy

The role of the Communications Strategy is to provide a clear framework for effective communication with stakeholders to achieve specific outcomes and in the pursuit of the organisation's overarching vision, purpose and objectives.

This framework sets out the following:

- What the organisation seeks to achieve through its engagement
- Which groups of stakeholders are being engaged
- How engagement is to occur, and the methods of communication used to support this engagement
- How messaging and communications should be formulated when engaging with stakeholders.

Purpose and Objectives:

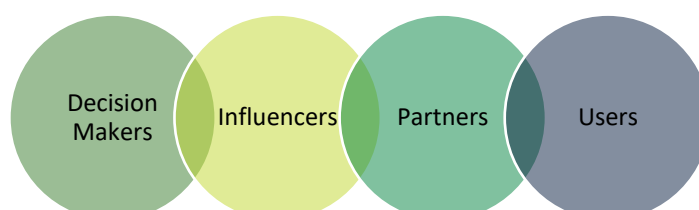
The objectives sought through our communications, in fulfilling this purpose, are to:



1. **Engage** our target audience(s) such that they are aware of the organisation's purpose and role(s), familiar with its capabilities and capacity to support them, and available to work collaboratively in areas of common interest.
2. **Inform** the target audience(s) of relevant information to help them progress their initiatives successfully – both locally (for stakeholders in region looking to progress initiatives in local communities) and centrally (for stakeholders developing initiatives).
3. Have the target audience(s) **recognise** the value created by the organisation, such that our partners and users trust and look to us to help in ways consistent with our purpose of growing prosperity and enhancing liveability. This recognition does not need to be articulated explicitly, but rather an act of cognition.

Target audience(s)

The target audience(s) describe the group(s) who are the primary focus of an engagement. These groups broadly fall into one of the following categories:



- **Decision makers** – people responsible for making decisions that affect the outcome(s) being sought. Decision makers include:
 - Board members and staff (internal to the organisation)
 - Funding partners (portfolio ministers, departmental executives, elected members and administration executives)
 - Program and assessment managers (departmental staff).
 The extent to which decision makers engage is typically highly variable, and contingent on the purpose and mode of engagement.
- **Influencers** – people providing counsel and advice, and making recommendations to the decision makers ultimately responsible for the decisions effecting outcomes the organisation has an interest in. Influencers include:
 - Cabinet members and ministerial advisers (in considering priorities and proposals that relate to or affect the outcomes of interest to the organisation)
 - Departmental and administration executives and officers responsible for administrations programs, projects and functions relevant to the activities of the organisation
 - Regional stakeholders – organisations, groups and individuals making representations around regional priorities, and/or presenting options to decision makers and other influences as to how outcomes of interest to the organisation should be achieved.
- **Partners** – entities the organisation works with on activities that contribute towards a common purpose and objectives.
 - Service delivery organisations providing complementary services, or collaborating on service and project delivery
 - Representative bodies advocating on behalf of the region.
- **Users** – people and organisation (potentially) using our services in acting to achieve outcomes consistent with the purpose and objectives of the organisation.
 - Businesses
 - Community groups
 - Service providers in-region
 - People seeking work and/or skills

Potentially visitors to and investors in the region.

Channel(s)

The organisation has a series of communication channels through which it can engage with target audiences; these can be used in various combinations to ensure we engage with the target audience(s) at the right time to solicit the type(s) of engagement required.

These channels, and their defining characteristics in respect of suitable content type and production considerations, are:



Messaging

Unique Value Proposition

The organisation's unique value proposition describes how it (we) creates value for its (our) stakeholders distinct from that derived from interacting with other entities.

The unique value proposition of RDA Yorke and Mid North is:

'We work with businesses, government, community and people to find and deliver solutions to grow prosperity and enhance the liveability of communities across our region.'

Each component of this value proposition forms part of the core messaging to be used by the organisation in its communication to imprint and build this perception of value by stakeholders.

Core messaging pillars

The core messaging pillars describe the key messages (and critically the specific language) that need to be used consistently when communicating with stakeholders to shape and enforce the key attributes of the organisation.

These core messaging pillars include:



- **Work(ing) with** – our role is to work with stakeholders to help them achieve their objectives as they relate to the organisation's purpose; this involves working together, not substituting for stakeholders' own effort and agency.
- **Find** – we connect people with relevant supports, whether provided by the organisation or a third party. We work collaboratively with other partners to deliver the best possible outcomes, rather than going alone.
- **Solutions** – we find ways to solve problems. Persistence and creativity are key in achieving progress towards objectives. Our role is to help them find solutions to achieve this progress and the outcomes.
- **Prosperity** – our primary focus is in lifting the economic wellbeing of people living in the region, through successful projects, growing businesses, and stronger skills and workforce development initiatives.
- **Liveability** – we work to improve the experiences of people in the region through the services they access, the spaces (and environments) they inhabit and the amenities they experience.

Priorities and Activities 2026-29

The Board has endorsed the Annual Business Plan for 2026-29 (Table 4). The plan adopts a strategic focus on using evidence, data and information gathered through our regional intelligence activities that enable us to provide insights to stakeholders in a number of different areas, for a range of different purposes. This focus on information is consistent with, and supportive of, the priority and regional focus areas being pursued through both the *Regional Investment Framework* and *RDA Yorke and Mid North Strategic Plan*.

The intent is to provide a clear reflection of the region’s priorities and to enable stakeholders to make better informed decisions via place-based approaches. This focus also supports the delivery of our core functions of supporting businesses, community groups and (local) government to investigate, plan and deliver projects, and to promote and facilitate engagement with government programs.

The outcomes being sought through the implementation of the Annual Business Plan will be measured through the key performance indicators (KPIs) listed in Table 5.

Table 3: Priorities and outcomes 2026-29

Top 5 strategic priorities	1. Improving access to water for residential and economic growth Better visibility over supply and demand, and strengthening the case for investment in capacity	2. Expanding economic diversity and complexity Supporting businesses to develop new capabilities and markets to grow revenue and markets, and build margin
	3. Grow and broaden housing stocks Deliver a wider range of affordable housing faster to better meet the growing local demand	4. Improve access to quality health and aged care services Expanding services to enable people to remain part of our communities for longer
		5. Workforce and skills Supporting people to develop and connect with rewarding skills and opportunities locally
Top 5 key business activities	1. Collating and disseminating evidence and information to enable stakeholders to make well-informed decisions successfully	2. Growing business capability strengthening through business plans, marketing, funding and financing
	3. Growing capacity in key infrastructure categories through advancing feasibility studies and business cases to positive final investment decisions	4. Supporting the development and integration of strategic industrial precincts to build on agglomeration effects and accelerate growth
		5. Bring attention to key problems and corresponding solutions to drive economic growth and services improvements

Priorities and Activities

Outcome 1: Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, through investment.			
Housing	Initiative Type	RDA's role	Timeframe
Activity 1.1: This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 4 'Sustainable Population'. Housing development projects aligning with various projects in the region, RDA Yorke and Mid North to provide a supportive role in housing development to encourage landowners and developers to bring forward plans for development including worker and aged care housing projects.	Infrastructure	Contribute	2025-27
Childcare	Initiative Type	RDA's role	Timeframe
Activity 1.2: Flying Start Professional Network This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 5 'Better access to services'. Purpose of the program is to establish a new network or expand an existing network of local early childhood education and care, allied health, and community services to collaborate in the delivery of high-quality preschool and reduce child developmental vulnerability in their community.	Industry growth	Led	Ongoing
Skills, capability and workforce	Initiative Type	RDA's role	Timeframe
Activity 1.3: Industry Outreach Program This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 5 'Better access to services'. This will enable us to understand and meet the needs of businesses, provide policy and decision-makers with quality, quantitative information to make decisions, and provide channels for promoting programs and opportunities. Engage with a broad range of businesses across industries and communities to obtain data, information and insights to inform trends, business needs and generate referrals.	Industry Growth	Led	Ongoing
Activity 1.4: Business to Business (B2B) This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 2 'Greater economic prosperity'. Providing direct assistance to businesses in communities affected by drought to build their fundamental business knowledge and capabilities across a range of key business functions by working with partnering providers to deliver targeted support functions which meet different needs in local areas.	Skills and local leadership	Led	2027-28
Activity 1.5: ACE program This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 6 'Greater workforce opportunities'.	Skills and Local Leadership	Led	2025-28

The proposed ACE+ initiative will offer three intakes of each program , supporting a target of 126 students . With a focus on foundation skills, employability, and learner engagement, this proposal represents a strategic and community-focused continuation of RDA Yorke and Mid North's commitment to regional growth through skills development.			
Activity 1.6: Regional Development Leadership Program This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 7 'Improving outcomes across communities'. The Regional Leadership Development Program offers emerging and established leaders in the Yorke and Mid North three unique opportunities to build their leadership skills: Emerging Leaders, Empowering Leaders, Inspiring Change and Leadership Masterclass.	Skills and Local Leadership	Led	2027-2028
Renewables and Climate Change	Initiative Type	RDA's role	Timeframe
Activity 1.7: LEAP Program Project This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 8 'Supporting the transition to net zero'. The project aims at supporting local businesses to explore and develop circular economy opportunities in order to strengthen the breadth and depth of the region, diversify the economy as well as deliver positive outcomes for the environment and local community.	Decarbonisation	Lead	2028-29
Activity 1.8: Climate Change Sector Agreement This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 8 'Supporting the transition to net zero'. Supporting initiatives under the Northern and Yorke Climate Change Sector Agreement, working in conjunction with Alliance partners, Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEWW).	Decarbonisation	Assist	2028-29
Activity 1.9: Regional Drought Resilience Plan This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 8 'Supporting the transition to net zero'. The Northern and Yorke Regional Drought Resilience Plan (NYRDRP) is designed as a strategic document to inform, plan and prioritise future investment that will help farm businesses, agricultural supply chains and the broader community to build resilience to drought. The document is living and is used to identify, prioritise and coordinate resilience building priorities and actions.	Decarbonisation	Led	Ongoing
Activity 1.10: Supporting renewable generation and transmission projects This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 8 'Supporting the transition to net zero'. Collaborative procurement opportunities to work with key projects in the region while establishing and maintaining community relationships and assist in sourcing local content, workforce and housing solutions during construction and commencement phases of their operations.	Infrastructure	Assist	Ongoing

Outcome 2: Support regional stakeholders, including local government and the not-for-profit-sector, to seek grant opportunities that advance strategic regional priorities.

Contribute advice and assistance to facilitate \$10m in inward investment into the Yorke and Mid North region

Activity 2.1

RDA Yorke and Mid North will be assisting community, government and private developers through facilitating planning, business cases, potentially grant and other activities.

This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 3 ‘Better connections between people, places and markets’ and is being Led by RDA Yorke and Mid North.

This activity is being conducted on an ongoing basis from July 2026 until June 2029; this activity will typically correlate with rounds of grant activity.

- This will occur with a target of \$10m investment will be realised per year (or be deemed to be realised) during this period.
- The facilitation required under these circumstances are facilitation, i.e. using the skills and experience of staff to match and develop businesses including workforce and product development advice
- We will also be conducting a series of Grant workshops throughout the region.

Outcome 3: Contribute to, and where appropriate, drive local economic development planning and strategy development.

Placed-based economic development strategies

Activity 3.1

RDA Yorke and Mid North will continue to support the development and implementation of place-based economic development strategies, such as those of local government as well as regional plans industry, as well as workforce strategies.

This activity aligns with Strategic Priorities 1 and 2 and is being Otherwise assisted by RDA Yorke and Mid North.

RDA Yorke and Mid North will be assisting community, government and private developers through facilitating planning, business cases, potentially grant and other activities.

Outcome 4: Contribute relevant data and local intelligence to support the evidence base to inform regional development strategies, program design and policy responses.

Regional Policy Analysis

Activity 4.1

To assist Commonwealth regional policy analysis one of the key attributes of RDA Yorke and Mid North is the knowledge and data that we gather, commission, analysis and share. The Board has recognised the importance of this role in its forward planning and has tasked the operations to focus on using, promoting and sharing this knowledge for benefits to our region, businesses, funding partners and stakeholders.

This activity aligns with Strategic Priority 3 'Better connections between people, places and markets' and is being Led/Contributed by RDA Yorke and Mid North on an ongoing basis.

Initially RDA Yorke and Mid North has identified the following sources of knowledge that we will focus on.

- Yorke and Mid North Investment Pipeline (published quarterly);
- Jobs Board (published in real time);
- Infrastructure Audit (published biannually);
- REMPLAN Economic and Community Profiles (published in real time);
- Industry Outreach program and Sentiment Index (gathered in real time and managed via our Customer Relationship Management system);
- RDSA Regional Blueprint (published annually across Regional South Australia);
- YMN Regional Priorities (provided to State Government annually);
- Investment Prospectus (published biannually).

Table 4: Activities Annual Business Plan 2026-29

Project Name	RDA Involvement	Strategic Objective(s)	Timeframe
PIRSA Regional Profile & Regional Plan	Lead	0. Effective organisation	Ongoing
B2B Drought Program	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	2027-28
Ngadjuri Cultural Centre	Assist	1. Increased economic diversity	Ongoing
Burra Arts Cultural Heritage Centre	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	Ongoing
Northern Transmission Line	Assist	1. Increased economic diversity	2027-28
Worlds End Gorge National Park Reference Group Committee	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	2028-29
Quarterly Investment Pipeline Reports	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	2028-29
Northern Areas Council Economic Development Strategy - review	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	2028-29
Hillside Mine	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	2028-29
Australian Cornish Mines World Heritage	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	2028-29
DC Mount Remarkable Economic Development Plan	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	2027-28
Gorges Walk project	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	Ongoing
Peterborough Community Plan	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	2028-29
Riverbank Precinct - Stage 1 EOI project	Contribute	1. Increased economic diversity	Ongoing
Regional economic diversification - value-add opportunities report	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	2027-28
Defence industry work packages	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	2026-27
Retail strategy	Lead	1. Increased economic diversity	Ongoing
CGVC Economic Development Plan review	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2026-27
Goyder Business Chamber	Lead	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Wakefield Growth Strategy - implementation	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2026-27
Eudunda Railway Station Accommodation	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Millon Wines Accommodation	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Orroroo Main Street Project	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Business event	Lead	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Clare Valley Website Refresh	Lead	2. Greater economic prosperity	Ongoing
Economic Fundamentals and Tools Workshops	Lead	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Podcast Series	Lead	2. Greater economic prosperity	Ongoing
Service abattoir	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29

Project Name	RDA Involvement	Strategic Objective(s)	Timeframe
Square Mile Road Development - Clare	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
NYRDR - Business Marketing and Digital Workshops	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29+
Barefoot Acres	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Copper Coast Growth Strategy Development	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2027-28
EV Chargers EVX	Lead	2. Greater economic prosperity	Ongoing
Kadina hub	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2026-27
Southern Yorke Peninsula Community Plans (tourism)	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2026-27
Edithburgh Jetty - dive platform	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Gold Hydrogen [Exploration phase]	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2027-28
Port Wakefield Upgrades Tidal Pool Precinct - Stage 2	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2026-27
Riverbend - Port Hughes	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Wallaroo Aquatic Sea Facility	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	Ongoing
Kadina Central	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2027-28
Business Port Pirie	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2027-28
Tourism Assistance - Peterborough	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2027-28
Old Belalie Hotel	Assist	2. Greater economic prosperity	2028-29
Razorback Iron Project	Contribute	2. Greater economic prosperity	2027-28
Connectivity advocacy program	Lead	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2026-27
Clare Town Hall Redevelopment	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	Ongoing
Clare Valley Water Infrastructure	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2028-29
Riverton Community Hall Refurbishment	Lead	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2028-29
Infrastructure planning metrics	Lead	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2026-27
Northern Water Supply	Assist	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	Ongoing
RDSA Infrastructure audit	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2027-28
Yorke Peninsula major jetty upgrades	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	Ongoing
Yorke Peninsula tourism collaboration	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2026-27
Braemar Infrastructure Corridor	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2027-28
Meadows Allotment Development Proposal	Assist	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2028-29
Mobile tower - Remarkable Southern Flinders	Assist	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	Ongoing
Moonta Mines master plan	Lead	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2027-28
Northern and Yorke LGA Roads and Transport Committee	Assist	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	Ongoing

Project Name	RDA Involvement	Strategic Objective(s)	Timeframe
Local government financial sustainability	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	Ongoing
Dockside Pt Vincent	Contribute	3. Better connections between people, places and markets	2028-29
Community Connector program	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Aberdeen Oval workers accommodation	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Project Hestia	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2026-27
Willoogleche North Wind Farm	Assist	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Regional Leadership Development Program	Lead	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Water regulatory reform	Lead	4. Sustainable population	2027-28
BWC Bute Housing development proposal	Assist	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Paratoo South Road Project	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Asset Utilisation Framework	Lead	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Country Club Estate	Assist	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Helping Hand - Clare housing proposal	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Housing supply study - Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	Lead	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Housing supply study - Northern Areas Council	Lead	4. Sustainable population	2026-27
Port Pirie South West Housing	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2027-28
Regional housing advocacy	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2026-27
Affordable housing project - Clare	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2027-28
Cowie Springs Estate	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Port Pirie City master plan	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2027-28
Worker accommodation development	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Yorke and Northern Local Health Network accommodation strategy	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	Ongoing
Lifestyle residential developments facilitation	Contribute	4. Sustainable population	2028-29
Pt Wakefield childcare	Contribute	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Flying Start Professional Network	Lead	5. Better access to services	2026-27
Yorke Peninsula training needs	Lead	5. Better access to services	2027-28
Crystal Brook childcare project	Contribute	5. Better access to services	2028-29
Yorke and Northern Health Infrastructure Planning	Contribute	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Building Wakefield's Flood Resilience	Contribute	5. Better access to services	2027-28
Ardrossan childcare	Contribute	5. Better access to services	2028-29
Regional childcare advocacy	Lead	5. Better access to services	2028-29

Project Name	RDA Involvement	Strategic Objective(s)	Timeframe
Grants bulletin	Lead	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Copper Coast Child and Family Centre	Contribute	5. Better access to services	2028-29
Port Broughton childcare	Lead	5. Better access to services	2027-28
Agery Road Development - Kadina	Assist	5. Better access to services	2028-29
Barunga Village master plan	Assist	5. Better access to services	2028-29+
Fields Allotment Development Proposal	Assist	5. Better access to services	2028-29
Orroroo childcare service	Contribute	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Wilmington childcare project	Contribute	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Ardrossan urgent care service	Contribute	5. Better access to services	2027-28
Balmoral Park Estate	Assist	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Bayside Caravan Park electrical infrastructure upgrade	Assist	5. Better access to services	Ongoing
Magor Road Port Pirie Allotment Development	Contribute	5. Better access to services	2027-28
Good Ranger Program	Assist	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2028-29
Industry outreach program	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2028-29
Jobs Board	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2028-29
Port Pirie Work Hardening projects	Contribute	6. Greater workforce opportunities	Ongoing
Ageing Economy Workforce	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	Ongoing
Collaborative Procurement for Renewable Proponents	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2026-27
Local Jobs Program - Steering Committee	Contribute	6. Greater workforce opportunities	Ongoing
Skills Forecasting	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2027-28
Yorke Peninsula and Mid North Regional Skills Advisory Committee	Assist	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2027-28
Jobs and Skills Network	Contribute	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2028-29
Jobs and Skills newsletter	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2027-28
ACE Program	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2028-29
Flying Start Workforce Training	Contribute	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2027-28
Regional Workforce Support Service Program	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2028-29
Housing supply study - Rex Minerals	Lead	6. Greater workforce opportunities	2027-28
Engaging with Aboriginal corporations	Assist	7. Improving outcomes across communities	2028-29
Nukunu Nursery	Assist	7. Improving outcomes across communities	2027-28
Greening Port Pirie Program	Assist	7. Improving outcomes across communities	2027-28
Grant Writing Workshops for Community Groups	Lead	7. Improving outcomes across communities	2026-27

Project Name	RDA Involvement	Strategic Objective(s)	Timeframe
Activating Bundaleer Forest	Contribute	7. Improving outcomes across communities	Ongoing
Yorke town Skate Park	Contribute	7. Improving outcomes across communities	2027-28
E-business newsletter	Lead	7. Improving outcomes across communities	Ongoing
Business chamber support program	Lead	7. Improving outcomes across communities	2026-27
EQUIS BESS Koolunga	Contribute	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2028-29+
Bungama Battery and Solar Farm Project - Port Pirie	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2026-27
Bundey Bess and Solar	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2027-28
Barn Hill Wind Farm	Contribute	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2028-29
Brinkworth Solar Farm and Battery	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	Ongoing
Goyder Renewables Zone - North	Contribute	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2026-27
Hallett Battery Energy Storage Scheme	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2026-27
TILT - Snowtown BESS	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2027-28
Regional Drought Resilience Plan - Northern and Yorke	Lead	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2028-29
Appila Tarcowie Wind Farm	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2027-28
LEAP program study	Lead	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	Ongoing
Carmody's Hill Renewable Energy Project	Contribute	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2027-28
Clements Gap Windfarm battery	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2027-28
Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2027-28
Climate Change Sector Agreement	Assist	8. Supporting the transition to net zero	2028-29

Table 5: KPIs Annual Business Plan 2026-29



Budget forecast 2026-29

Table 6: Budget Annual Business Plan 2026-29

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA YORKE AND MID NORTH

Income			
	Budget 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027	Budget 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	Budget 1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Funding for this period	\$790,212.88	\$809,968.20	\$830,217.41
Interest on Commonwealth funds	\$16,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other Funding Sources	\$466,762.51	\$478,431.57	\$490,392.96
Other Income (Rent)	\$5,288.96	\$5,421.18	\$5,556.71
Other Operating Income	\$48,444.00	\$37,291.00	-
Total RDA program income (A)	\$1,326,708.35	\$1,332,111.95	\$1,327,166.47
Expenditure - major budget items ^			
Employee salaries	\$779,551.78	\$791,967.50	\$811,766.69
Employee entitlements	\$90,078.15	\$92,330.10	\$94,638.35
Other employee expenses	\$17,697.21	\$18,127.14	\$18,567.82
Office lease and outgoings	\$112,294.58	\$115,497.94	\$118,795.25
Vehicle costs	\$77,275.00	\$79,206.88	\$81,187.05
Operational	\$134,264.36	\$137,620.96	\$141,061.49
Financial, legal and professional	\$19,632.89	\$14,730.90	\$15,099.17
Marketing	\$15,764.00	\$10,970.60	\$16,182.37
Committee costs	\$28,574.00	\$23,875.35	\$29,184.24
Honorarium/Sitting Fees	\$21,957.89	\$21,957.89	\$21,957.89
Total RDA program funding expenditure (B)	\$1,297,089.85	\$1,306,285.26	\$1,348,440.31
Surplus / Deficit of RDA program funding (A - B)	\$29,618.50	\$25,826.69	\$(21,273.84)



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional
Development
Australia

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YORKE AND MID NORTH

Business Plan

2026-29

July 2026