

Limestone Coast Region

Major regional centre: Mount Gambier

The Limestone Coast region serves as South Australia's gateway to Victoria and features important tourist and freight transport links. With a population of around 64,370 in 2011 and expected growth to around 72,240 people by 2036 (0.5 per cent per annum), initiatives to improve the safety and performance of the road network will be an important stimulus for ongoing economic development of the region.

The region has had to withstand significant economic restructuring in recent years due to changes in the forestry industry. Nonetheless, its economy remains strong and firmly based around primary production (agriculture, horticulture, viticulture and dairying), associated processing activities and tourism.

Upgrades to the Riddoch and Princes highways, as well as the Pinnaroo to Bordertown Road and Bordertown to Naracoorte Road will support the region's world class wine growing, dairy and processing industries as well as improve the safety of the road network for increasing tourism and freight traffic. A freight traffic bypass of the historic Penola township, an important tourist centre for the region, will also be developed in stages.

Regional passenger transport services will be improved through better provision of information about services and the State Government will work closely with local councils to facilitate a review of strategically located regional passenger transport services.

The State Government will also work with local councils to deliver cycling/walking frameworks that promote the adoption of active travel modes for local journeys within the regional community.

Growth in transport demand in the region led to the development of a *Green Triangle Action Plan* in 2009 to make the most of opportunities arising from growth in the mining, timber, renewable energy and agricultural sectors. The South Australian Government will continue to deliver the plan in partnership with the Victorian Government, local councils and the timber and freight industries.

Implementation timeframe	Short	Medium	Long
Public transport – Area-wide solutions			
• Development of a Regional Passenger Transport Plan to address regional accessibility requirements			
• Better information for regional passengers			
• Continued support for regional passenger bus services, e.g. Mount Gambier Provincial City Bus Services and integrated passenger services			
Roads			
1. Penola bypass			
2. Riddoch Highway – road widening, shoulder sealing, overtaking lanes and rest areas			
3. Princes Highway – road widening and shoulder sealing			
4. Pinnaroo to Bordertown Road – road widening and shoulder sealing			
5. Dukes Highway –capacity improvements including duplication, Keith to the border			
Area-wide solutions			
• Road widening and shoulder sealing targeted at major freight and traffic routes			
• Increase maintenance to improve and sustain the performance of the transport network and make better use of our transport assets			
• Continue to implement the Road Safety Strategy and address road safety blackspot and higher risk locations			
Cycling and walking – Area-wide solutions			
• State Bicycle Fund – work with local councils to develop a regional cycling and walking strategy			
Ports, rail freight and airports			
6. Preserve the South East Rail corridor for potential future freight demand			
Area-wide solutions			
• Work with local councils to identify upgrades of strategically important local aerodromes including Kingston, Naracoorte, Millicent, Bordertown and Mount Gambier airport			
Local Government			
• Work with local councils to complete local transport strategies to complement land use directions of local development plans, with a focus on freight movements and accessible townships:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road, pedestrian and cycling networks in Mount Gambier and other major towns, including rail level crossings on local roads where applicable • Upgrades to support safe and reliable heavy vehicle movements, including last mile access and in conjunction with implementation of the Green Triangle Action Plan • Airport master plan – Mount Gambier • Upgrades of boat ramps, jetties and wharfs, including Kingston and Beachport • Options for heavy vehicle bypass of affected towns, including Naracoorte • Safe and reliable road networks to support tourism and local travel, and improved access to key tourism sites 			
• Work with Local Government to implement the National Airport Safeguarding Framework within council development plans for Kingston, Millicent, Naracoorte, Bordertown aerodromes and Mount Gambier airport			

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Figure 5-14 Limestone Coast Solutions

