

The Upper Spencer Gulf Primed for growth

In partnership with



**A growing region with lots of
opportunities for investors,
professionals and workers**

live. invest. thrive.



Spencer Gulf Cities



Right now, in South Australia, there is a once in a generation economic opportunity, and I am determined to ensure that – together – we seize it.

With our unique combination of sun, wind and valuable minerals in the Upper Spencer Gulf, we can lead the world with renewable hydrogen energy, green steel and copper production – bringing thousands of new jobs and a surging economy.

But it won't just happen, we have to *make* it happen.

The State Government's Hydrogen Jobs Plan promises to put our state at the global forefront of this transformational renewable energy source.

But that is just the beginning, the State Government is also exploring Northern Water, a large-scale desalination plant and pipeline network, which would unlock Australia's largest copper deposits, critical minerals and realise the full potential of hydrogen energy in South Australia.

This project goes beyond these investments, it's also about having a plan to train up the highly-skilled workforce we'll need. That's why we are investing in bringing back technical colleges, including one in Port Augusta.

This isn't years down the track, it's happening now.

We have what the world wants, what the world demands.

Victoria had the gold rush in the 19th century, New South Wales and Queensland had coal in the 20th century, Western Australia has iron ore.

The 21st century will be about renewable hydrogen energy and valuable minerals from South Australia.

This is our moment to drive a new era of prosperity for decades to come.

And we're ready to build the partnerships that will get us there.

Peter Malinauskas
Premier of South Australia

Acknowledgement of First Nations People

We pay our respects to the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work. We acknowledge their ancestors and their sharing of their country. We pay our respect to the many Aboriginal groups and cultures that work, walk and live in the Upper Spencer Gulf region.

Invest SA

Invest SA is a dedicated team of investment and business professionals within the Department of State Development, the only agency that can connect you with opportunities, industry networks, and other government agencies in the following sectors in South Australia:

- Minerals and energy
- Defence
- Space
- Health
- Critical and emerging technologies
- Creative industries
- Food, wine and agribusiness
- Green economy
- Tourism



Mayor Leon Stephens
Port Pirie Regional Council
SGC Board Chair



Mayor Phillip Stone
Whyalla City Council
SGC Board Member



Mayor Linley Shine
Port Augusta City Council
SGC Board Member

The Upper Spencer Gulf region has, for decades, been a significant economic contributor to South Australia and the nation, through its natural mineral resources and industrial outputs.

In recent years, the Upper Spencer Gulf has become an emerging global renewable energy 'powerhouse' due to its coincident wind and solar resources. The region offers some of the most rare and unique nature-based and cultural experiences in the world, making it a great place to live.

Planned public and private sector investment in hydrogen power and renewable energy projects, green iron/green steel, valuable mineral resources (copper, graphite, magnetite), coupled with significant infrastructure projects over the next five to ten years will further establish our region as a world leader in meeting emissions reduction targets and leading the global transition to a decarbonised net zero future.

The City Councils in Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie collaborate strategically through the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group (trading as the Spencer Gulf Cities). Spencer Gulf Cities strongly advocate for their regional communities and economies to be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, especially during this growth period.

The three councils stand united and ready to work with governments, the private sector and their communities to create partnerships and realise the growth potential that will occur in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

This document showcases opportunities for current and future investors, and all industry sectors, to benefit from the region's evolution. There has never been a better time to live, work and invest in the Upper Spencer Gulf, and I encourage all to come and be part of its exciting future.

**Mayor Leon Stephens,
Chair, Spencer Gulf Cities**

Spencer Gulf Cities

Spencer Gulf Cities is a long standing alliance between the Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla Councils with a focus on promoting growth and sustainability in the Upper Spencer Gulf. The Councils provide a strong united voice and advocacy for the region. Individually and collectively, the Councils are keen to engage with investors and other interested stakeholders to support the economic transition of the Upper Spencer Gulf to a cleaner, more innovative, liveable and economically diverse region.

Upper Spencer Gulf at a glance



54,000
residents¹



12.1%
of our population was born overseas²



15.3%
of our population volunteer²



41%
of adults have a vocation or higher education²
(similar to the state average at 49%)



50%
of persons over 15 years old are employed²
(similar to the state average at 57%)



4,101
square kilometre area
local government areas for
Pt Augusta, Pt Pirie and Whyalla²



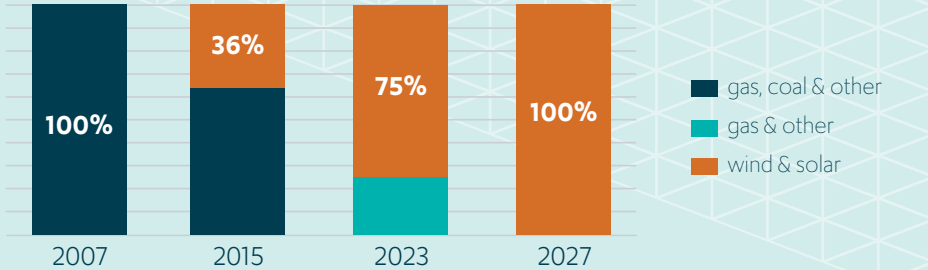
44%
of the population are aged between 25 and 60²
(similar to the state average at 45%)

Unless otherwise stated, data through this document is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' local government area boundaries for Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla, which includes their immediate cities and surrounds.

¹ Estimated Regional Population 2022-23, Australian Bureau of Statistics

² 2021 Census, Australian Bureau of Statistics

On track for net 100% renewables by 2027



Total \$15.3 billion contribution to gross regional product³ (which forms 10.8% regional share of gross state product for 2022-23)

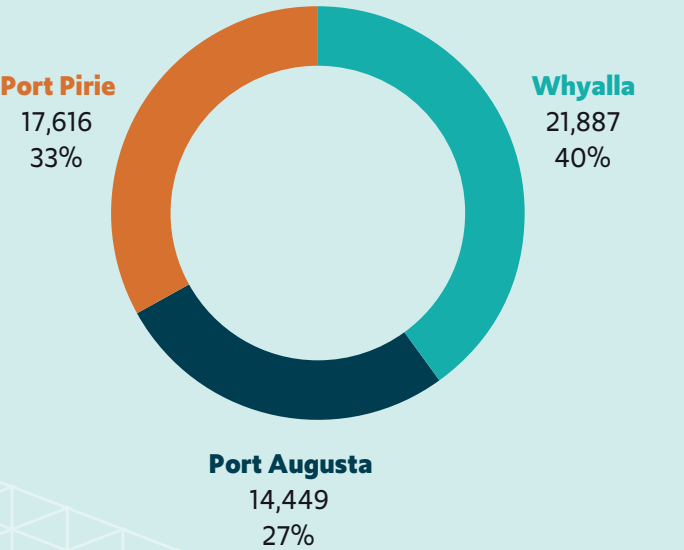
Gross Regional Product	GRP 2022-23	Growth since 2021-22
Far North (includes Port Augusta and Roxby Downs)	\$6.2 billion	6.10%
Yorke and Mid North (includes Port Pirie)	\$5.1 billion	9.30%
Eyre and Western (includes Whyalla)	\$4.0 billion	9.20%

5 largest employing industries²

- Health care and social assistance
- Manufacturing
- Retail trade
- Education and training
- Construction

Estimated regional population within the Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla council areas

Source: Estimated Regional Population 2022-23, Australian Bureau of Statistics



³ State Budget 2024-25, Government of South Australia

Welcome to the Upper Spencer Gulf

Whether looking to visit, stay or invest, the Upper Spencer Gulf region offers individuals and families a range of opportunities to work and play.

Located to the north of Adelaide, South Australia's capital city, the cities of Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla are the three leading hubs of the Upper Spencer Gulf region. The three cities are critical service centres for the broader geographic landscape, providing retail, specialist health and medical, education, sporting, aged care, emergency and commercial services.

The region is naturally blessed with some of the most significant mineral and renewable energy resources, with the **concurrence of wind and solar in the region making it a valuable asset on a global scale**. It is also home to unique biodiversity and distinctive landscapes, with environments ranging from deserts, arid wetlands and temperate forests, to dry salt lakes.

The Upper Spencer Gulf and neighbouring Eyre Peninsula are two of the very few places in the world where visitors can swim amongst the protected giant Australian cuttlefish or cage dive with great white sharks. From the rugged mountain landscapes of the Flinders Ranges to the peaceful coastal and marine environment of the Spencer Gulf, there are plenty of attractions to suit all interests.

The Upper Spencer Gulf is also home to some of the most significant First Nations cultural experiences including Port Augusta's Wadlata Outback Centre and Cultural Centre Yarta Purtli, showcasing the region's rich cultural history.

Great for families

With a high proportion of families living in the area, the Upper Spencer Gulf is a playground for the young and young at heart.

Maximising the region's Mediterranean climate, hot and dry summers with cool and moist winters, the region boasts incredible recreational activities including diving, fishing and snorkelling experiences, with the Australian outback and coastal line also a dream for those seeking adventurous walks and cycling trails. The three cities of Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla are investing in their open spaces, creating award-winning recreational areas including iconic jetties, foreshores, parks, playgrounds, gardens and lookouts.

Families and residents enjoy the benefits of a regional lifestyle in the Upper Spencer Gulf, with the peace of mind of metropolitan health and medical infrastructure. Each of the cities has access to critical infrastructure and social support services, including efficient transport and logistics routes, education, childcare and aged care, as well as significant and diverse opportunities for investors looking to establish and grow their business and workforce.

Industrial powerhouses

The region has historically been a significant economic contributor to the state and nation through its natural resources and industrial outputs. With a rich history steeped in lead and steel processing, over the last decade, the regional economy has diversified and capitalised on its natural resources to become a significant renewable energy 'powerhouse'.

The region's proud history, industry strengths and sense of community is the foundation the Government of South Australia is building upon.

South Australia, leading the nation's economy

South Australia is ranked first overall on economic performance in CommSec's quarterly reports. South Australia ranked first on relative economic growth, relative unemployment, construction work done and dwelling starts.

State of the States State and Territory Economic Performance Report (April 2024), Edition 58, Commonwealth Bank

Looking to the future

The Upper Spencer Gulf is now at the centre of South Australia's ambitious national and global green energy plans.

The combination of quality world-leading wind and solar resources, alongside a wealth of copper, magnetite and other critical minerals essential for the decarbonisation of industries, makes investment and opening up the Upper Spencer Gulf region a critical next step for Australia's green future.

Led by major South Australian and Australian Government projects, the Upper Spencer Gulf region is positioned to lead the nation's 'green revolution' and climate change adaptation with key projects including the Hydrogen Jobs Plan, Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub, Northern Water and the green steel transition. Confirmed investment from both the government sector and private organisations ensures security for the region and its residents over the long-term, offering piece of mind for people considering permanent relocation.

With the impressive pipeline of investment due to take place in the region over the next decade, the Upper Spencer Gulf is your next opportunity: your destination to **live, invest and thrive**.

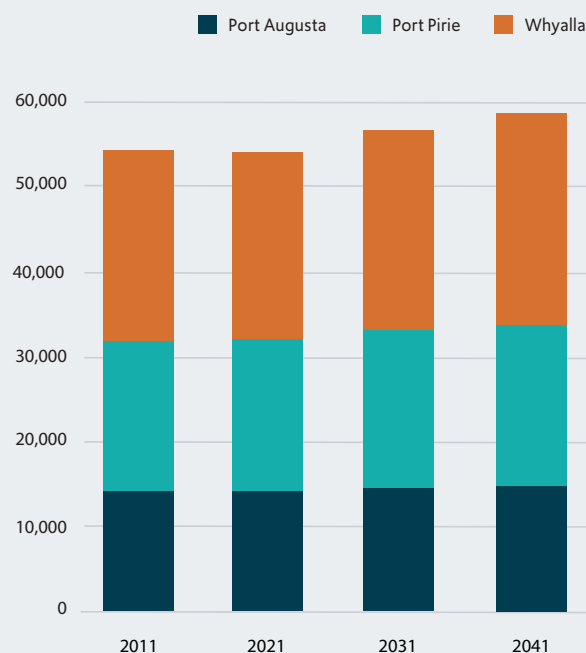
Future population projections

The estimated 54,000 resident population across the three local government areas is relatively evenly distributed and is projected to grow by approximately 0.2 per cent overall each year, to 2041.⁴

While current population projection is low, this is anticipated to change significantly over the next 10 years, with the growth of 20,000 (temporary) construction jobs and 4,000 ongoing jobs anticipated across a diverse range of skills. In addition to the workforce required for the major growth industries, a growing population will also require additional workers in adjacent industries including education, childcare, health care, retail and social assistance.

Recent work has been undertaken by the State Planning Commission on the three regions that incorporate Whyalla, Port Pirie and Port Augusta councils. Projected population growth, which considers population, industry and employment trends and possible major investments, is shown in Figure 1.⁵

Figure 1: Population projections (local areas) 2021-2041⁴



⁴ Planning and Land Use Services, Department for Housing and Urban Development

⁵ The projections do not include temporary workers required either for construction projects and/or to meet workforce requirements in the region, including planned (and unplanned) shutdowns for maintenance/renewal, major projects and/or capital upgrades and filling of skill requirements via DIDO and FIFO workers.

Investment pipeline: endless opportunities

The Upper Spencer Gulf region is primed for investment.

With key industries including renewable energy, resources, defence and manufacturing expected to grow exponentially over the next decade, the necessary skills, services and infrastructure to support the associated growth of workforces, families and visitors to the Upper Spencer Gulf region are in high demand.

Over AUD\$30 billion is proposed in the pipeline of investment activity for the region.

Upper Spencer Gulf investment pipeline⁷

107 Projects

\$30.3B
Pipeline
Value

25,593
Full time employees
in construction



Value-add manufacturing

11 projects

\$14.6B investment



Renewables

18 projects

\$5.2B investment



Lifestyle & accommodation

15 projects

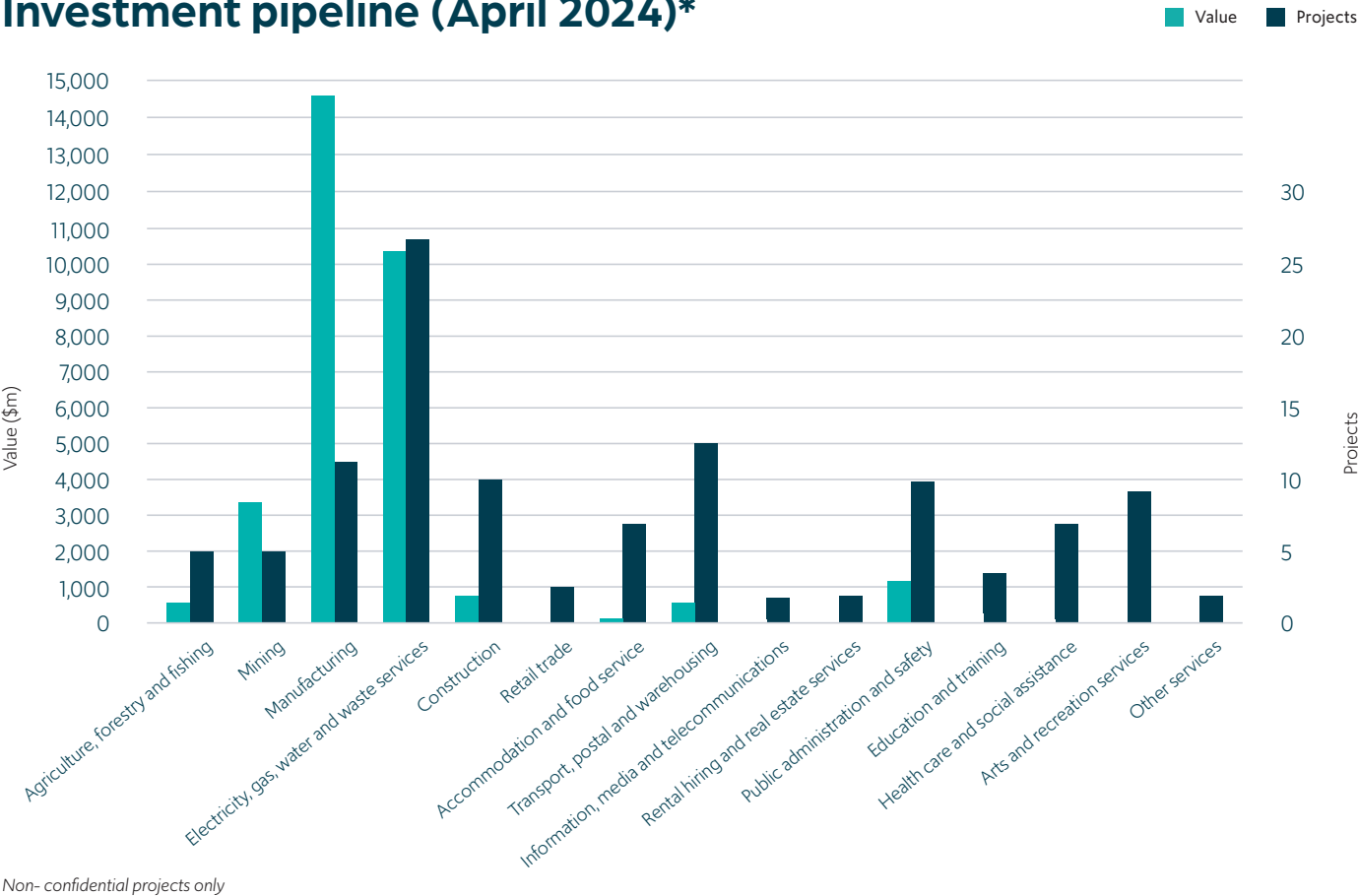
\$243M investment

⁷ Investment pipeline: Spencer Gulf Cities and State Government, Regional Development Australia, October 2023

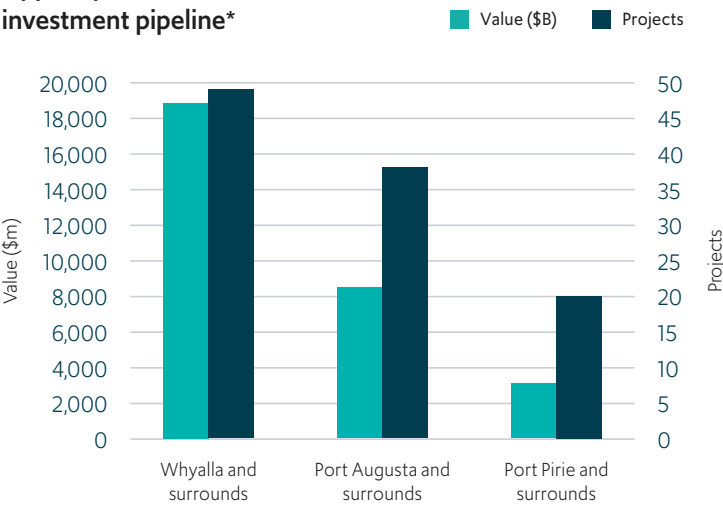
Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023

Introduction of the new Act provides a fit-for purpose regulatory framework, providing a streamlined and de-risked pathway to release large tracts of land to the market for renewables development. This framework delivers the best outcomes for South Australian communities, ensuring net environmental benefits, respect for First Nations people's rights and interests and that land is rehabilitated appropriately.

Investment pipeline (April 2024)*



Upper Spencer Gulf investment pipeline*



Future workforce projections

Significant opportunities for educational institutions and employment organisations, registered training organisations, labour hire companies and health and safety specialists exist to meet the needs of employers and workers with the region.

Many of the skills needed are transferable across industries. With a tight labour market and a significant pipeline of investment, the coordination of migration activities and development and growth of the local workforce has become a critical priority.

In addition to traditional workforce skill requirements, emerging industries such as hydrogen and renewable energy will need development of new and additional skills within the region for the short, medium and long-term. The hydrogen sector alone will drive unprecedented demand for a diverse range of skills, including specialist technicians, engineers, research and development personnel, assemblers, project developers, plant operators, controllers, site managers, transportation workers and logistics specialists.



* Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees collect comprehensive investment data for projects under development in their respective regions. This data is gathered from a number of sources, including ASX releases, discussions with proponents and partners, and local market intelligence. Whilst every reasonable effort is made to ensure the veracity and currency of the information, no reliance is supported or liability accepted in respect of the use of this data.

Key projects and opportunities in the Upper Spencer Gulf

Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub – primed for export

The Government of South Australia and private sector are collaborating to deliver the Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub positioning it to be South Australia's first large-scale clean hydrogen production precinct for both export and domestic markets and is an integral part of South Australia's first mover strategy to enter the global hydrogen market.

Hydrogen Jobs Plan

World-leading AUD\$593 million grid-scale renewable hydrogen facility in Whyalla. Features 250MWe of electrolyzers, 200MW power generation and hydrogen storage. Will accelerate growth of South Australia's hydrogen economy and unlock a gigawatt scale pipeline of further renewable energy developments across the state. The facility will provide hydrogen offtake opportunities for local industries looking to decarbonise their operations.

Port Bonython jetty upgrade

Featuring a loading facility and infrastructure for hydrocarbon products, the upgrade will extend the jetty's operational life by 40 years. Further funding is underway as part of the Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub common user infrastructure development project.

GFG Alliance - Whyalla green iron and green steel transformation

LIBERTY Steel will spend up to AUD\$500 million on a new 160 tonne electric arc furnace, to cut carbon emissions by 90% and increase steelmaking capacity to 1.5 million tonnes per annum by late 2025.

SIMEC Mining - Magnetite Expansion Project

Two-phase process that will increase magnetite concentrate production to 2.5 Mtpa. Powered by renewable energy, this will lead to future production of green iron and green steel manufacturing, along with increased exports of low carbon steel to GFG Alliance's European steelworks.

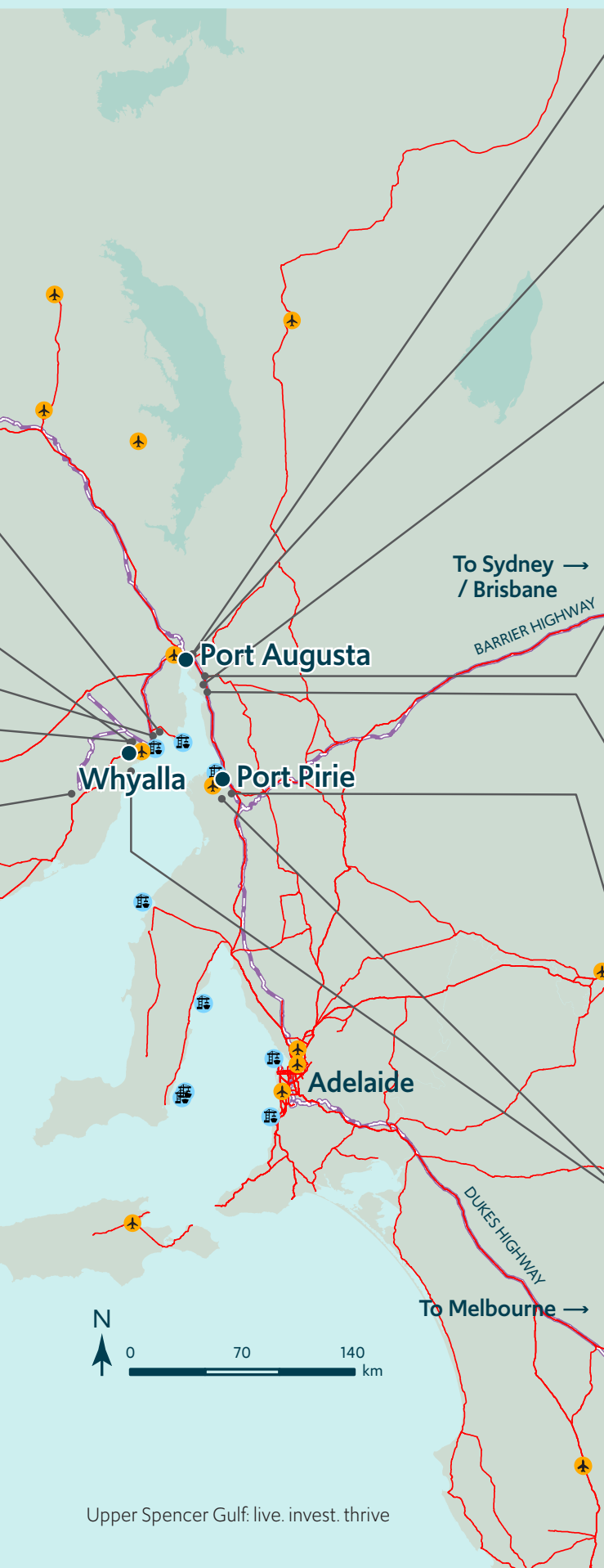
Northern Water

Proposed project to enhance water security in the Upper Spencer Gulf, Eyre Peninsula and Far North through a 260 ML/day desalination plant and 600 km pipeline that will go from Cape Hardy to Olympic Dam. Water supply will unlock an annual average of AUD \$5.2 billion in GSP through copper, hydrogen and green iron manufacturing opportunities across the region. Final project decision expected mid-2026.



Key

- Sea Port
- Airport
- Road
- Rail



Bungala Solar Farm 1 and 2

Located near Port Augusta, the Enel Green Power Bungala Solar Farm, with a total capacity of 275MW from approximately 800,000 PV modules, commenced full production in 2020.

Concentrated solar thermal power plant

The Vast VS1 project 20km north of Port Augusta involves the development, construction and operation of a 30 MW / 288 MWh concentrated solar thermal power (CSP) plant. Construction due to commence in 2024.

Sundrop Farms

Sustainable horticulture world leader, employing revolutionary renewable solar thermal and desalination technology to produce high-value crops, year-round, in arid environments. Supplying one of Australia's largest supermarket chains with truss tomatoes.

Hallett Group

A new 6MW hydrogen electrolyser in Port Augusta to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 300,000 tonnes annually – approximately one per cent of Australia's 2027 reduction target - and produce green cement for domestic and international markets.

Port Augusta Renewable Energy Park (PAREP)

Australia's largest hybrid renewable power. Provides more predictable and uniform power during the day via 50 wind turbines and 250,000 solar modules producing a total installed capacity of almost 320MW of clean renewable energy.

Nyrstar Australia

The Port Pirie plant is one of the world's largest multi-metal smelters, producing lead, silver, zinc, copper and gold and by-products including sulphuric acid, antimony and bismuth. A new product recycling facility is being built to reduce local lead-in-air concentrations measured in the local community.

EPS Energy and AMP Energy solar and battery storage projects

Developing several large scale solar and battery storage projects including two proposed utility scale solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems:

- Bungama Solar (5 kilometres east of Port Pirie) – 280MW AC utility scale solar and 250MW/500MWh battery storage
- Yoorndoo Ilga Solar (10 kilometres north of Whyalla) – 300MW AC utility scale solar and 250MW/500MWh battery storage.

Principal industries



Renewable energy (wind, solar, hydrogen)

South Australia is on track to be a net 100 per cent renewable energy generator by 2027, bringing forward its original 2030 goal.

In 2023, South Australia reached 74 per cent renewable penetration from wind (47 per cent) and solar (27 per cent) energy sources.

South Australia is a clean energy powerhouse. It is an international leader in integrating wind, solar, and battery energy storage system (BESS) into the state's energy network. The combined strengths of abundant wind and solar resources, significant land availability, existing and developing infrastructure, skills and proximity to some of the nation's largest mines place South Australia in prime position to be a world-class producer, user and exporter of hydrogen.

It is estimated there are over 100 gigawatts (GW) of wind and solar resources in South Australia with further development potential – that's more than 13 times the amount of electricity the state currently generates.

The state's low-cost power, reputation for innovation, and world-leading regulatory system is leading the decarbonisation of industry and modern manufacturing opportunities.

The Upper Spencer Gulf is a critical part of the state's current and future successes in renewable energy production and supporting other jurisdictions to decarbonise. Opportunities exist for investors seeking to be a part of future supply chains, including electricity generation, hydrogen production and manufacturing.

The region is central to the state's significant future green energy ambitions with an AUD\$21 billion pipeline investment from Australian and state governments supporting wind, solar and battery projects across the state. This includes the 100MW Playford Big Battery near Port Augusta, due for completion December 2026, which will be the state's largest grid scale battery. Additional large-scale projects in the region include the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and the Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub.



Manufacturing

The three cities are home to leading manufacturing capability including LIBERTY Primary Steel Whyalla Steelworks, Nyrstar Australia's Port Pirie smelter and Hallett Group's green cement project at Port Augusta. These experienced workforces are already in place and can support further industrial development in the area.



Construction

The construction sector is currently the fifth largest employer in the Upper Spencer Gulf region.

A significant increase in housing construction capability and capacity in the region will be critical to support the projected growth in resident population living in the region, as well as the massive temporary worker accommodation associated with the investment pipeline.

Civil construction associated with roads, rail, ports will be significantly elevated over the next 10 years.



Watt's with the jargon?

Kilowatts (kW), megawatts (MW) or gigawatts (GW) are all measures of capacity. Capacity is the maximum amount of electricity that a power station, or multiple power stations are capable of producing.

100 kilowatts

100kW of solar is enough to power around **30 homes**

1 megawatt

One megawatt of solar is enough to power around **300 homes**

1 gigawatt

One gigawatt powers around **300,000 homes** supporting almost 12 times the current dwellings in the Upper Spencer Gulf

Source: Climate Council



Resources sector

South Australia is rich in minerals that are crucial for decarbonising a broad range of industries including cement, steel and alumina. Global demand for critical minerals is growing exponentially as they become essential for computing, high tech manufacturing, renewable energy generation and storage, transport, telecommunications and defence technologies.

South Australia has significant critical minerals and strategic resources including magnetite, copper, graphite, gold, and uranium. All known graphite projects in the state are located within the Upper Spencer Gulf region and over 95 per cent of known magnetite and hematite projects are within 200 kilometres of the three cities.

Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla are the closest major cities to over 90 per cent of the state's mineral resources. The state holds 67 per cent of Australia's graphite resources and 68 per cent of Australia's copper, crucial for lithium battery production, and has substantial resources of heavy rare earth elements used in high temperature magnets. With over 16 billion tonnes of confirmed magnetite iron ore resource, the majority of which is high quality, coarse grain sizes and located at relatively shallow mining depths, our state offers investors an unmatched opportunity in becoming a significant global supplier of quality magnetite ore and concentrates.

South Australia's share of Australia's resources

68%	26%	82%
Copper	Gold	Uranium
5%	67%	10%
Zircon	Graphite	Iron Ore

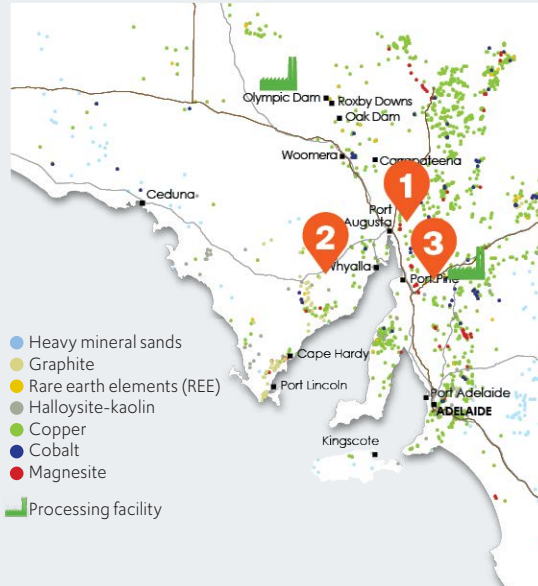


Agriculture and fishing

Broadacre crops, wool, sheep, pigs and cattle have historically provided a strong economic base for the Upper Spencer Gulf region. Recent innovation and the introduction of new technologies have redefined the possibilities for horticultural operations, with successes including the establishment of Sundrop Farms; an Australian industry leader producing high-value fruit using renewable sources.

Commercial fishing is a major industry for the region, targeting western king prawns, blue swimmer crab and a variety of scalefish species.

Opportunities for agricultural value-adding innovations in the region include premium grain milling and processing, egg production, advanced abattoir works and camel dairy. In addition to commercial agricultural and horticultural operations, the Upper Spencer Gulf is fostering an emerging agricultural and arid research sector.



Government of South Australia, Department for Energy and Mining, 2024

1	2	3	Potential
PORT AUGUSTA Rare earths (mineral sands) monazite demonstration and processing hub	WHYALLA Green steel, alumina, hydrogen generation	PORT PIRIE Processing Lead Silver Copper Zinc	Germanium Indium Antimony Bismuth

Key projects in the region

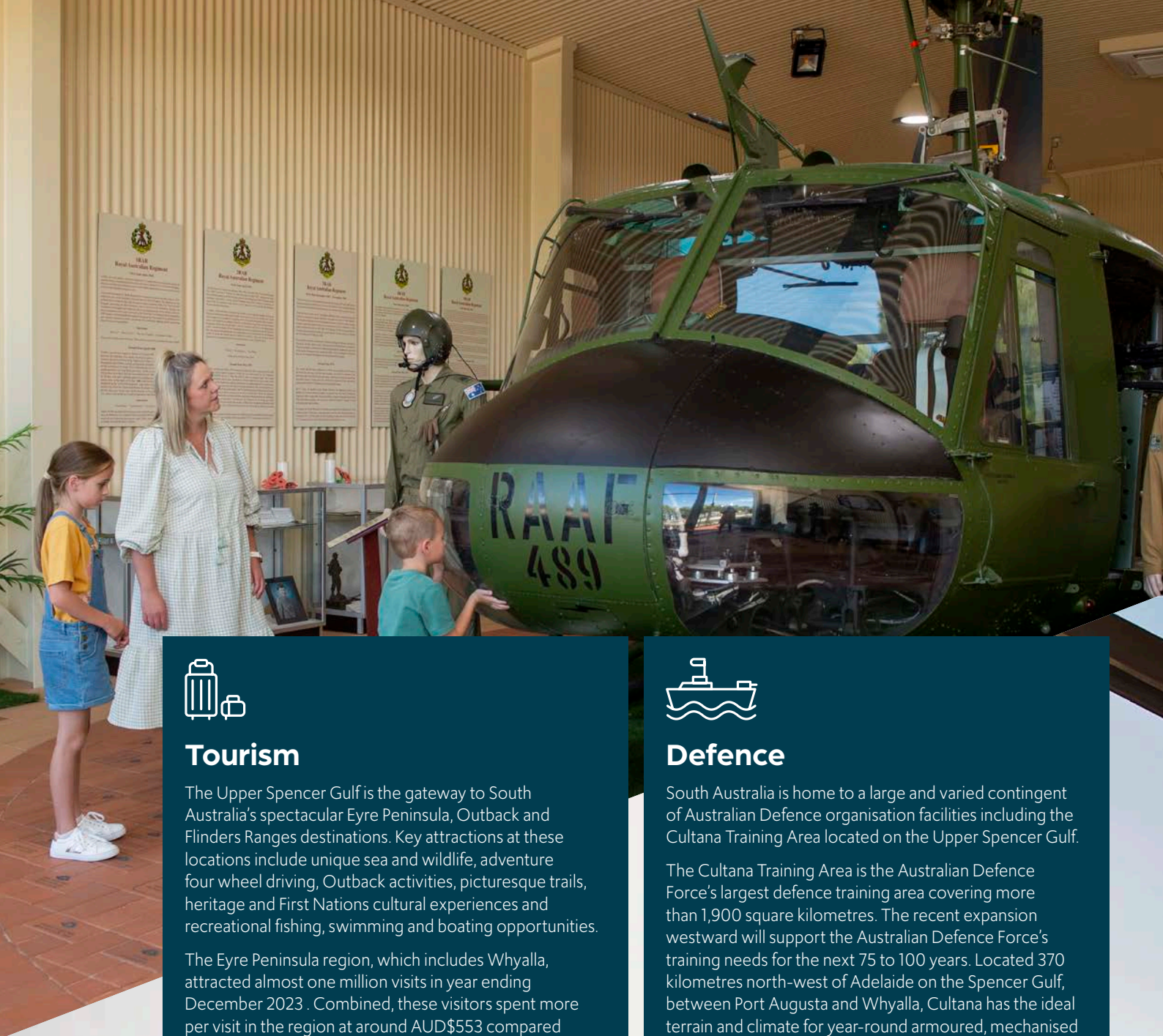
- BHP has established an integrated copper province in the state's far north by combining the Prominent Hill and Carrapateena mines with its existing Olympic Dam mine, smelter and refinery, and Oak Dam exploration prospect.
- Renascor's Siviour Graphite Project is the world's second largest proven reserve of graphite and the largest graphite reserve outside of Africa.
- Braemar Province mineral deposits include gold and uranium and discoveries of magnetite and copper. Magnetite ores from the Braemar iron region are notable for being comparably softer than magnetite ores from the other iron regions, enabling grinding to finer grain size without incurring significant additional power inputs.

Sustainable horticulture – Sundrop Farms

Sundrop Farms is a world leader in sustainable horticulture, employing revolutionary technology to produce high-value crops using renewable sources in arid environments. It is the first company in Australia to develop a commercial scale operation using solar thermal and desalination technology.

Located near Port Augusta, Sundrop Farms' technologically advanced 20-hectare state-of-the-art greenhouse allows it to produce horticultural crops in non-traditional locations with limited access to fresh water or grid energy.

Demonstrating leading innovation in the integration of solar thermal, electricity generation, freshwater conservation, production, climate control and hydroponics, Sundrop Farms' technologies provide optimal conditions and sustainable farming practices that allow year-round crop production.



Tourism

The Upper Spencer Gulf is the gateway to South Australia's spectacular Eyre Peninsula, Outback and Flinders Ranges destinations. Key attractions at these locations include unique sea and wildlife, adventure four wheel driving, Outback activities, picturesque trails, heritage and First Nations cultural experiences and recreational fishing, swimming and boating opportunities.

The Eyre Peninsula region, which includes Whyalla, attracted almost one million visits in year ending December 2023. Combined, these visitors spent more per visit in the region at around AUD\$553 compared to what was spent across overall South Australia at AUD\$444. International visitors to the region stayed an average of 12 nights while domestic overnight travellers spent 4 nights in the region.

Port Augusta and Port Pirie are located within the Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism region which saw 1.3 million visits to the region during year ending December 2023, with average spend of AUD\$456 per visit. International visitors to the region stayed an average of 17 nights while domestic overnight travellers spent 5 nights in the region.

These three local government areas attracted 350,000 overnight visitors during 2022-23, generating an estimated AUD\$160 million in spend.

Tourism is a valued industry in the Upper Spencer Gulf, with approximately one in 12 people employed in the sector. There are over 1,000 tourism businesses in the region with the majority being micro to small businesses. As the population grows, opportunities exist for investors to provide new offerings, ranging from accommodation, to adventure tours, to retail.



Defence

South Australia is home to a large and varied contingent of Australian Defence organisation facilities including the Cultana Training Area located on the Upper Spencer Gulf.

The Cultana Training Area is the Australian Defence Force's largest defence training area covering more than 1,900 square kilometres. The recent expansion westward will support the Australian Defence Force's training needs for the next 75 to 100 years. Located 370 kilometres north-west of Adelaide on the Spencer Gulf, between Port Augusta and Whyalla, Cultana has the ideal terrain and climate for year-round armoured, mechanised and cavalry forces training. It is only one of two areas in Australia able to support joint and combined training.



Critical and social infrastructure



Education and workforce

Growing and developing the local workforce will be critical to the continued momentum and success of the Upper Spencer Gulf region and the region's industries. The Government of South Australia is developing an Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce Strategy and Hydrogen Workforce Roadmap to ensure that existing and new industries in the region can be supported by a suitably skilled workforce now and into the future. The Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce Strategy will highlight the current and future workforce needs for the region, identify key regional workforce priorities for attracting, developing and retaining the workforce, identify government and industry initiatives that are building the workforce, and outline strategies and solutions to address any future gaps and priorities. Similarly, the Hydrogen Workforce Roadmap will seek to identify and address the niche workforce needs for the fast-emerging hydrogen industry.

To support the growth of skills and educational institutions to match workforce demand, there is a need to increase the overall nature and number of teachers from early childhood through to tertiary and vocational training.

The existing presence of South Australia's public universities and TAFE SA in the region provides a strong educational base that investors can leverage.

Key tertiary and higher education institutions

Uni Hub Spencer Gulf

Part of the Commonwealth Government's Regional University Study Hubs program, and partners with universities across Australia in tertiary courses that address shortages in the region. Uni Hub works closely with the local community, schools and industry to overcome barriers for students undertaking tertiary study while living regionally.

Port Augusta Technical College

The new college will provide direct pathways through South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), apprenticeships and vocational training for students to take up employment in key industries within the region, including manufacturing, construction, renewable energy, mining and mineral processing.

University of South Australia – Whyalla Campus

The largest regional university campus in South Australia, offering degrees in education, nursing and social work, all purposefully designed to reflect the in-demand skills in the region. The campus offers state-of-the-art facilities, including high-speed internet, simulated learning environments for nursing and midwifery students, a social work studio, a high-tech gallery space, advanced information technology infrastructure, as well as purpose-built study and social spaces.

The University of South Australia also provides rural placement for students enrolled in relevant health programs to promote interdisciplinary health education activities and community clinical support and cultural experiences. Participants are actively engaged in rural workforce research and health workforce support and development in rural and remote South Australia.

TAFE SA

The state's largest vocational education and training provider. TAFE SA has campuses in all three cities, offering courses that have been developed in collaboration with industry to ensure the training and education needs of the local community are met. Areas of study include aged and disability services, building trades, business and administration, cookery, early childhood education, engineering, first aid, hairdressing, hospitality, literacy and numeracy, nursing and work health safety.

University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide facilitates rural and remote clinical placements for students undertaking a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. Placements give students the opportunity to provide comprehensive care to a wide variety of patients and clients in multidisciplinary environments within rural hospitals, community-based clinics and general practices.



Transport, infrastructure and logistics

The Upper Spencer Gulf has an extensive transport and logistics network, with multiple ports, rail, road and airports providing accessibility to the region for people movement, as well as domestic and export transport routes for freight and commodities.

The region is the centre of major road and rail freight corridors connecting Australia from east to west and north to south, including Perth to Sydney, Melbourne to Adelaide and Adelaide to Darwin. Sea ports and airports in all three cities provide a range of intermodal transport options. The Australian and South Australian governments are committing further funds to develop key transport routes in the region.

Development of the Port Playford export facility in Port Augusta will see the return of commercial shipping to the city for the first time in 50 years, with a former power station site transformed into a bulk commodity export terminal.



Housing

Houses in the three cities are overall more affordable when compared to the state average, with lower resident and tenant turnover. Demand for housing is high in these locations, with less than one per cent of accommodation currently available for rent or purchase.

With the significant pipeline of projects expected to take place in the Upper Spencer Gulf over the next few years, investment in housing across the region is vital. The Government of South Australia has committed to work closely with local governments to deliver planning and land-use reforms over time to make housing supply more responsive to demand.

The new industries in the region will require an increased and diverse mix of housing options, including affordable and executive housing to rent, buy and build. This will be both a key challenge and an opportunity. As big infrastructure builds commence there will also be the need for worker accommodation, some of which may need to be temporary in nature.

Attracting builders and contractors will be a critical priority.



Utilities

The cities of Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla have ready access to a range of critical utilities and infrastructure including water, natural gas, electricity and telecommunications.

The Upper Spencer Gulf relies on non-renewable water sources including the Great Artesian Basin, River Murray and groundwater aquifers for community and industrial use. Each city has detailed asset management plans and works with the relevant Government of South Australia agencies to guide their approach to sustainable infrastructure renewal and upgrades across stormwater, community wastewater management systems and wastewater, buildings and open spaces.

All three cities have access to high-speed broadband internet services and comprehensive mobile coverage.



Land availability

The cities of Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla have extensive land availability for housing and commercial developments of various sizes, and within close proximity to the city centres.



Liveability

The three cities have a range of sports, recreation, arts and cultural activities supported by community groups. Families and children from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and age groups actively participate and engage in annual community and social activities.



Support for First Nations

The Aboriginal health team within the Port Pirie Regional Health Service, Whyalla's Nunyara Wellbeing Centre and Port Augusta's Pika Wiya Health Service are some of the key support services working closely with Aboriginal communities, providing services including health screenings, diabetes care and counselling services, as well as supporting health workers understand the unique needs and culture of the First Nations community. These services promote health programs and provide education and advice to support individuals accessing mainstream services they require.



Health care and social assistance

Health care and social assistance is currently the largest employer in the Upper Spencer Gulf region, with almost 17 per cent of the population employed in the industry. As the population grows to support the large pipeline of investment activity, there will be significant demand for locally skilled staff and services in health and social assistance, including in the provision of child and aged care services.

Major hospitals operate in each of the three cities, providing critical health and emergency services to their immediate cities and surrounding areas. Significant investment in health services is already being undertaken to accommodate current and anticipated growth in the region.

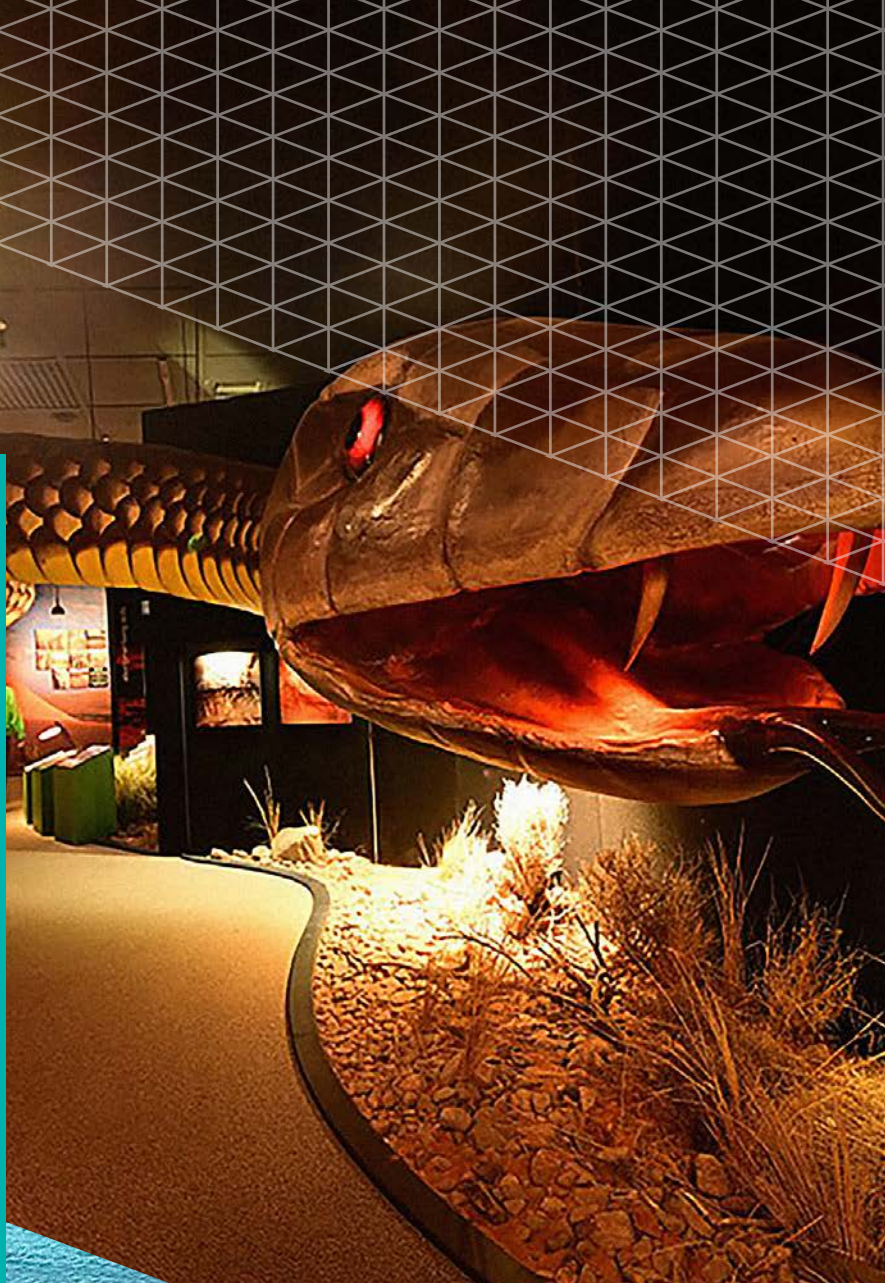
Skilled workers and the availability of child and aged care services remains an area of high demand in the region. There are many opportunities for providers to establish in the region as industries grow.



Recreational experiences

A diverse range of iconic recreational experiences are available in the region, including:

- snorkelling with protected giant cuttlefish near Whyalla, with the Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone the largest known breeding habitat of the giant Australian cuttlefish and the only location in the world where the cuttlefish aggregate annually on mass with such predictability
- cage diving with great white sharks at on the Eyre Peninsula, one of very few places in the world that offer this rare opportunity
- hiking, camping, wildlife walking or mountain biking through the diverse landscape of Wapma Thura – Southern Flinders Ranges National Park
- wandering through the picturesque Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden with its rare side-by-side combination of arid and marine environments spread over more than 250 hectares.
- exploring Nilpena Ediacara National Park in the Flinders Ranges, recognised as the richest and most diverse Ediacaran fossil site on Earth
- staying in the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park with plenty of opportunity to enjoy the diverse marine life including cuttlefish, dolphins, whales, migratory and resident shorebirds, waterbirds and fish species.



Award winning tourism

Whyalla Jetty

Whyalla's award-winning 315 metre circular jetty, using locally-made Whyalla steel, is an unmissable feature with its innovative design attracting unprecedented visitor numbers.

Wadlata Outback Centre

Port Augusta's Wadlata Outback Centre is an award-winning major tourism attraction for the region. Visitors take part in a unique journey through time, helping them learn about the unique natural and human history of the region, from fossils, to Akurra, the Dreaming Serpent spirit ancestor of the Adnyamathanha people, to joining the early explorers on their brave treks, to current day lifestyles.

The Spencer Gulf Cities welcome you to the region, the heart of some of the state's key growth industries: offering striking natural landscapes, family-friendly recreational spaces and unique cultural experiences, access to quality education and health services, and plenty of opportunities to grow your career in new or existing industries.

Now is the time to consider the Upper Spencer Gulf as your next location to live and thrive.

Let's talk

Spencer Gulf councils

Port Augusta

W: portaugusta.sa.gov.au

Port Pirie

W: pirie.sa.gov.au

Whyalla

W: whyalla.sa.gov.au

Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees

Eyre Peninsula

W: rdaep.org.au

Far North

W: rdafn.com.au/about

Yorke and Mid North

W: yorkeandmidnorth.com.au

Wendy Campana

Executive Officer

Spencer Gulf Cities

M: +61 (0) 417 861 783

E: eo@upperspencergulf.com.au

Chris Wood

Executive Director

Invest SA

Department of State Development

T: +61 (8) 8235 5400

E: dti.investmentsupport@sa.gov.au

W: invest.sa.gov.au



Published July 2024.

No responsibility for any loss or damage caused by reliance on any of the information or advice provided by or on behalf of the state of South Australia, or for any loss or damage arising from acts or omissions made, is accepted by the state of South Australia, their officers, servants or agents. Produced by the Government of South Australia © July 2024. Content correct at time of printing.



Government
of South Australia

