

News Release **Minister Ian Hunter**

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

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Renewable energy bill supports regional economic development

Environment Minister Ian Hunter has welcomed passage of a new bill through Parliament's Legislative Council aimed at supporting economic development in regional South Australia.

He said the Pastoral Land Management Bill, supporting renewable energy developments on pastoral lands, had passed the Upper House late this afternoon.

"This legislation is the first of its kind in Australia," Minister Hunter said.

"It will make it easier to establish wind farms on Crown Land that's subject to a pastoral lease, or establish solar energy projects on pastoral land.

"Since 2003, there has been an investment of \$5.5 billion in renewable energy in South Australia, with nearly half of that occurring in regional areas.

"This bill will help those benefits continue to flow to regional areas, while encouraging more investment in the renewable energy sector."

Minister Hunter said the bill would send a strong message to developers that South Australia is a competitive place for investment in the renewable energy sector.

"This bill makes it possible for a wind farm developer to apply for a licence to build and operate a wind farm on Crown Land subject to pastoral lease, and for that wind farm to coexist with a pastoral leaseholder's activities," he said.

"The bill also supports multiple land use on Crown Land.

"Importantly, it ensures that a pastoral lessee's views are taken into account through the licence application process, and that 95 per cent of the wind farm licence payment will be passed through to pastoral lessees and native title holders.

"It's an important bill that supports pastoral lessees as well as economic development in regional South Australia."

The bill is yet to be considered by Parliament's Lower House.