

Regional Profiles

Adelaide

Overview

Adelaide is one of Australia's largest gas-fired electricity producers, supplying electricity to the National Electricity Market (NEM). Gas-fired power stations in Adelaide contributes substantial benefits to the local economy; however, three power stations are expected to close over the next decade. This change represents challenges for some workers and the surrounding communities. However, the region is also well placed to benefit from changes associated with decarbonisation.



Population (2025)

- 1,217,212 persons
- 1.4% 5-year avg. annual Growth
- SA: 1.2% 5-year avg. annual Growth



Total Area

- 1,352.4 km²
- 0.1% of SA



Gross Regional Product (2022-23)

- \$110.3 Billion
- 66.9% of SA



Employment (2022-23)

- 595,282 persons
- 71.3% of SA

Working Zones: Central and Hills, Adelaide – North, Adelaide – South, Adelaide – West (excluding Adelaide Hills and Onkaparinga Statistical Areas level 3 [SA3s]) (maps at end of profile).

Region Focus Rationale

Exposure to Decarbonisation	Economic Opportunities from Decarbonisation
• Carbon Intensity: Adelaide has 8 gas-fired power stations and 2 safeguard facilities. As of 2024-25, safeguards in the region account for 22.2% of South Australia's safeguard scope 1 emissions. Approximately 1.4% of jobs in the region are potentially impacted by decarbonisation. • Urgency: The region is heavily reliant on fossil fuels, particularly gas. Osborne power station is expected to close in 2027, Torrens Island is expected to close in 2028, and Dry Creek is expected to close in 2030. All other power stations are not expected to close until 2037 and beyond. • Adaptive Capacity: Adaptive capacity to change is supported by high-levels of high school completion and economic diversity. • Readiness: The legislative framework for the Energy Industry Jobs Plan (EIJP) commenced on 11 December 2024, with the commencement of the <i>Net Zero Economy Authority Act 2024</i> (the Act). On 20 November 2025, the Fair Work Commission made a community of interest determination to formally establish the EIJP at Torrens Island B Power Station. The determination enlivens obligations under the EIJP requiring AGL to provide access to transition supports to its employees impacted by the closure.	• Natural Capital: Given its role as South Australia's capital and metropolitan layout, Adelaide has limited capacity for large-scale renewable energy development compared to regional and rural areas. • Workforce Compatibility: Approximately 8.9% of workers in Adelaide are employed in jobs highly compatible with clean energy industries. • Enabling Infrastructure: Key infrastructure includes the Port of Adelaide and Adelaide Airport. This infrastructure supports global trade and labour mobility into and out of the region. The region is also connected by well-established road network and connecting freight and passenger railway connections.

Source: NZEA (2026).



Carbon-Intensive Industries

Gas-Fired Power Stations

Facility	Owner	Public closure date	Employees	S1 emiss. (tCO ₂ -e) (23/24)	% of SA S1 emiss. (23/24)	% of Aus S1 emiss. (23/24)
Barker Inlet	AGL	2044	Incl. In Torres Island PS	163,814	0.6%	<0.1%
Bolivar	Iberdrola Australia Energy Markets Pty Ltd	2045	5	23,494	0.1%	<0.1%
Dry Creek	ENGIE	2030	2	12,596	0.0%	<0.1%
Osborne	ATCO and Origin Energy	2027	24	156,932	0.6%	<0.1%
Pelican Point	ENGIE	2037	30	677,090	2.7%	0.1%
Quarantine	Origin Energy	2044-55	7	72,916	0.3%	<0.1%
Snapper Point	Nexif and RATCH	2046	N/A	26,704	0.1%	<0.1%
Torrens Island	AGL	2028	200	370,328	1.5%	0.1%
Total 8	7	-	268	1,503,874	5.9%	0.2%

Note: S1 emiss. indicates Scope 1 Emissions. Further information on Scope 1 emissions can be found [here](#).

Source: AEMO (2026a), DCCEEW (2025a, 2025b).

Safeguard Facilities (Emit 100,000+ tonnes CO₂ annually – power stations connected to grid are exempt)

Facility	Employees	S1 emiss. (tCO ₂ -e) (24/25)	% of SA S1 Safeguard emiss. (24/25)	% of Aus S1 Safeguard emiss. (24/25)
Birkenhead Operations (Cement, lime, plaster & concrete manufacturing)	185	796,132	19.0%	0.6%
Orora Glass Plant Gawler	25	134,492	3.2%	0.1%
Total 2	210	930,624	22.2%	0.7%

Note: S1 emiss. indicates Scope 1 Emissions. Further information on Scope 1 emissions can be found [here](#).

Source: CER (2026).



Major Commonwealth Funded Net Zero Projects *(excluding cancelled and completed)* (top projects by value)

This table reflects projects that have received Commonwealth funding (as of April 2026), identified through publicly available sources, consistent with the [Net Zero Investment Map](#), including the programs below.

- **Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS)**
- **Australia Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)**
- **Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)**
- **Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)**
- **National Reconstruction Fund (NRF)**
- **Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program**

Project	Description	Status	Cwth Govt Funding	Value
Tindo Mawson Lakes Facility Upgrade	Tindo will scale up the production of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules at its existing Mawson Lakes module manufacturing facility. Tindo will sell the solar PV modules produced in connection with this project to the domestic solar market with potential for export sales.	Concept	\$34.5M ARENA	\$35.8M
SA DEM Remote Area Energy Supply Project	This project involves deploying renewable energy microgrids in remote South Australian First Nations communities to improve the reliability and sustainability of energy supplies.	Concept	\$13.0M ARENA	\$27.7M
SA Power Networks - Electrification and Demand Flexibility	The project will recruit a minimum of 500 households in South Australia to demonstrate the customer and industry benefits of demand flexibility and smart electric homes and identify levers to support their deployment at scale.	Concept	\$6.2M ARENA	\$13.8M
SA Power Networks EV Charging & Resilience Community Batteries	This project involves deploying eight front-of-meter Community Batteries at network constrained regional locations within the SA Power Networks (SAPN) distribution network.	Concept	\$5.4M ARENA	\$10.8M
HILT CRC - upgrading iron ore for DRI production using seawater	HILT CRC will lead the development of a scalable hydrometallurgical caustic leaching process to upgrade iron ore using the reagents derived from seawater reverse osmosis (RO) brines.	Concept	\$1.4M ARENA	\$5.7M

Note: Information correct as of April 2026.

Source: Net Zero Investment Map (2026).

Regional Renewable Energy Projects (aggregated)

The aggregated tables below draw on RenewMap’s energy project database which contains information on the location and size of public and privately funded energy generation projects. Results are shown in aggregated form to illustrate the breadth and depth of projects in the region.

Operational

Type	Projects (No.)	Total Project Size (MW)	Total Storage Size (MWh)
Battery	4	263	265
Biogas	3	18	N/A
Hydrogen	2	1	N/A
Solar PV	1	8	N/A
Total	10	290	265 (Known Storage)

Note:

- RenewMap is a commercial subscription and is not publicly available.
- MW = Megawatt. A unit that measures capacity of energy systems.
- MWh = Megawatt hour. In battery technology, this unit measures the total amount of energy the system can store.
- Information correct as of April 2026.

Source: RenewMap (2026).

Under Development and Proposed

Type	Projects (No.)	Total Project Size (MW)	Total Storage Size (MWh)
Battery	4	785	510
Hydrogen	1	60	N/A
Total	5	845	510 (Known Storage)

Note:

- RenewMap is a commercial subscription and is not publicly available.
- MW = Megawatt. A unit that measures capacity of energy systems.
- MWh = Megawatt hour. In battery technology, this unit measures the total amount of energy the system can store.
- Information correct as of April 2026.

Source: RenewMap (2026).

Transmission Infrastructure Projects

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Draft 2026 Integrated System Plan (ISP)

Project	Description	Status	Timing	Cost
Northern Transmission Project	New 275 kV and 132 kV transmission lines to connect renewable generation to Adelaide and to supply increasing industrial load.	Actionable	Jul 2029	\$620.0M (±50%)

Note: ± indicates the cost uncertainty range.

Source: AEMO (2026b).

Major Industries

Gross Value Add (2022-23)

Ranked Industries (Top Five)	Value (\$M)	% of GVA
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	\$13,412.8	12.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$11,982.5	11.6%
Public Administration & Safety	\$9,362.6	9.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	\$8,838.9	8.5%
Construction	\$8,306.9	8.0%

Note: Gross Value Add estimates are sourced from REMPLAN (2026), incorporating Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census (PoW), ABS 2024 Estimated Resident Population, ABS 2022–23 National Input–Output Tables, and ABS June 2025 Gross State Product into its modelling. Gross Value Add (GVA) measures the value of goods and services produced, minus the cost inputs used in production. Further information on GVA can be found [here](#).

Source: REMPLAN (2026).

Employment

Place of Work (2022-23)

Ranked Industries (Top Five)	Employees (No.)	% of Employment
Health Care and Social Assistance	107,871	18.1%
Retail Trade	57,940	9.7%
Education and Training	55,103	9.3%
Construction	50,293	8.4%
Public Administration and Safety	46,809	7.9%

Note: Employment by Place of Work (PoW) estimates are sourced from REMPLAN (2026), incorporating Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census by PoW, ABS 2024 Estimated Resident Population, ABS 2022–23 National Input–Output Tables, and ABS June 2025 Gross State Product into its modelling.

Source: REMPLAN (2026).

Place of Usual Residence (2021)

Ranked Industries (Top Five)	Employees (No.)	% of Employment
Health Care and Social Assistance	93,374	17.7%
Retail Trade	52,343	9.9%
Manufacturing	49,493	9.4%
Education and Training	43,623	8.2%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	40,294	7.6%

Source: ABS (2021).

Key Economic and Social Indicators

Employment

Indicator (2021 Census unless otherwise stated)	Adelaide	South Australia
Median working age	39	40
Median income (annual gross, exc. super)	\$41,600 – \$51,999	\$41,600 – \$51,999
Participation in workforce	61.7%	60.0%
Female participation in workforce	58.1%	56.8%
Workforce Self-Sufficiency (% of Workforce)	87.2%	N/A
Unemployment rate (Dec 2025)	3.8%	4.2%
Regional Labour Market Index (Sep 2025)	Average	N/A

Source: ABS (2021), DEWR (2026), JSA (2026).

Demographics

Indicator (2021 Census)	Adelaide	South Australia
Median age	39	41
First Nations (% of population)	1.8%	2.5%
Educational attainment (% of population aged 15 and above):		
• Below Year 12	39.2%	44.3%
• Year 12 or equivalent	60.8%	55.7%
• Certificate III and IV	16.5%	18.9%
• Bachelor and above	29.0%	24.4%

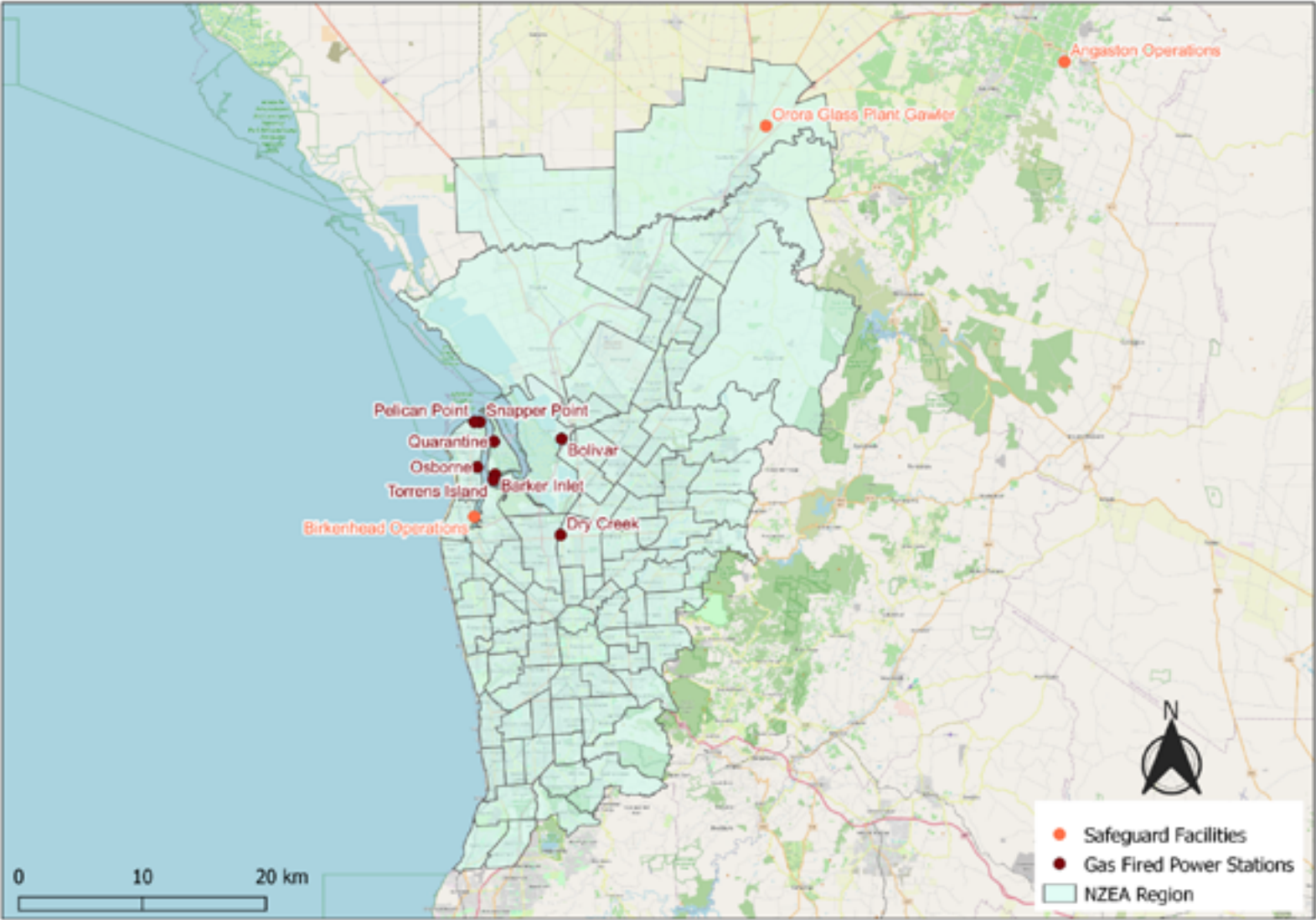
Source: ABS (2021).

Housing

Indicator (2021 Census)	Adelaide	South Australia
Homelessness (% of population)	0.4%	0.4%
Commonwealth Rent Assistance (% of population) (Sep 2025)	5.3%	5.4%
Mortgage stress	12.3%	12.0%
Rental stress	30.6%	30.1%

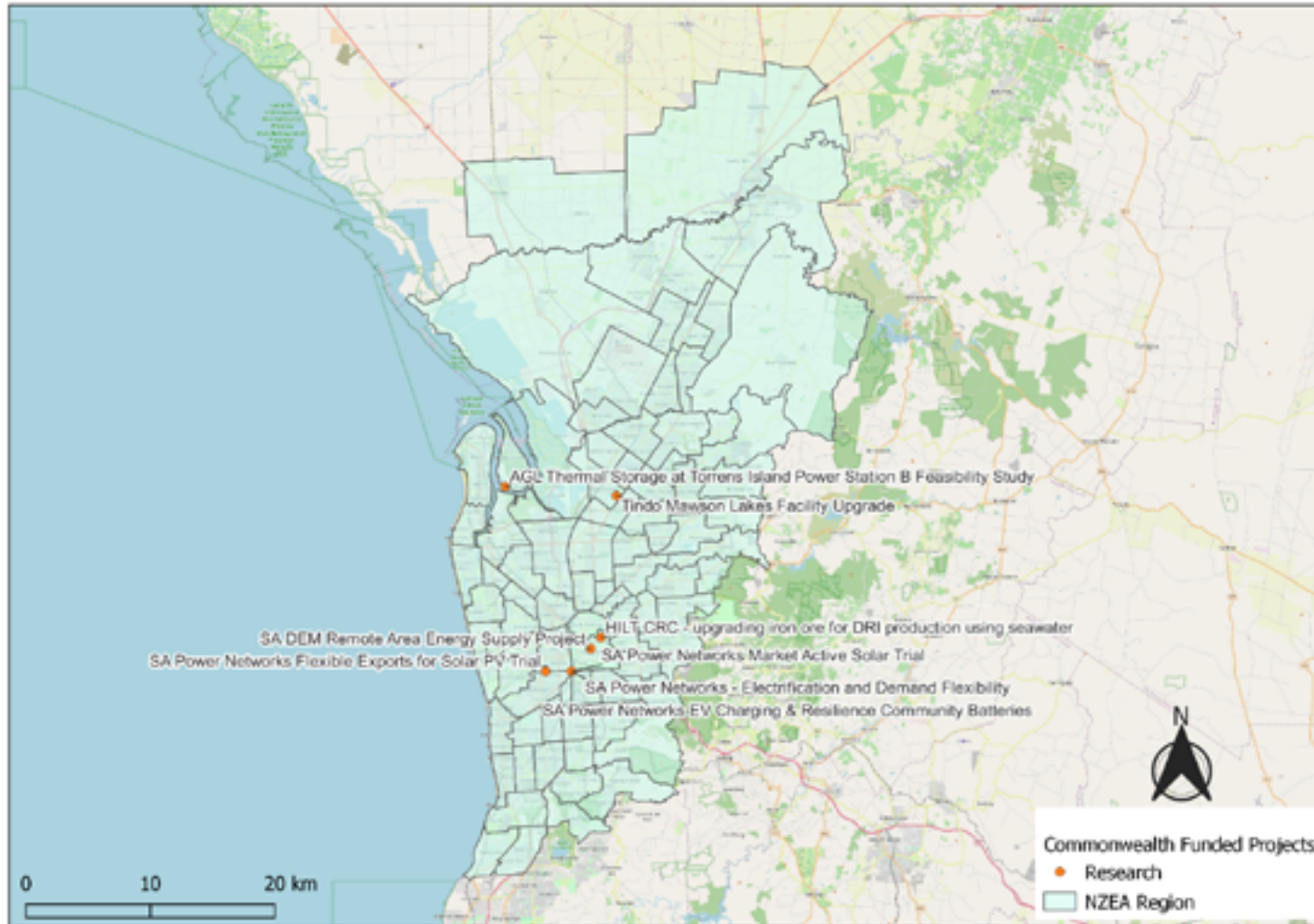
Source: ABS (2021), DSS (2025).

Safeguard Facilities Map



Source: DCCEEW (2025b).

Commonwealth Funded Net Zero Projects Map (Current & Proposed) (2020 Onwards)



Note:

- Commonwealth funded projects include projects from the following schemes, Capacity Investment Scheme, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, National Reconstruction Fund, Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program.
- Information correct as of April 2026.

Source: NZIM (2026).



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