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State of the State

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The State Government is pressing ahead with its policies to accelerate the economic development of South Australia - and is getting results from them.

New structures have been set up to secure planned industrial development and properly controlled growth.

Our overall aim is to get more investment - and so provide more jobs - within a pattern of more diverse and stable development.

Key agencies through which this is being done are the Industrial Assistance Corporation, which helps small firms during the critical early phases, the Industries Research Institute to provide liaison in industrial and scientific research and our greatly expanded network of overseas trade representatives and agents.

This has led to much greater awareness beyond our borders of South Australia's potential for trade and investment and within them to record calls on Housing Trust resources for factory development.

This is all the more significant in that it has been achieved against a background of continuing economic uncertainty at the national level.

Recent examples, among many, of new industrial development include:

- Australian National Industries scheme - now well underway, for a \$2.7m. press forge plant at Dry Creek.
- Fletcher Jones and Staff Pty. Ltd's newly opened factory at Mount Gambier;
- Levi Strauss Ltd's project for a \$1.5m. national production headquarters at Elizabeth for clothing manufacture.

Tourism development is going ahead in numbers of South Australian centres - notably Adelaide, the Riverland and the Barossa Valley - to provide greater employment concentrated on women and school leavers.

In the metropolitan area we are building on our established reputation as an international festival centre, with construction of the multi-million dollar performing arts complex on the banks of the Torrens.

Equal priority is being given to ensuring that South Australians have the best available social services.

Spending on schools, health, hospital and community welfare services is running at record levels and the Government is determined to maintain the pace of development in these areas which are vital to the well being of South Australians.

We are the most urban of the Australian States and, because of this, we have taken steps to see that the future growth of the metropolitan area is planned in such a way that the capital does not become clogged and unworkable as is happening in the eastern States.

Central to this is the planning of the new city near Murray Bridge.

Murray New Town is not only the most dramatic and carefully planned decentralisation project in Australia, I believe it will be the most imaginative and exciting development of its kind since the founding of Canberra.

Ours is a buoy administration, a State on the move. We recognise that there is much to be done if South Australia is to maintain its position as the national leader in the 1970's. We are determined to do all we can to ensure that its vast potential is realised.