

\$2b developments planned for regional areas

NEARLY \$2b in development projects is currently planned for country areas to play a key role in increasing the state's population.

At the opening of the Australian Population Association Conference in Adelaide recently, Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Trade Karlene Maywald highlighted the importance of regional SA in achieving the target of two billion people by 2050.

Leading demographic researchers and experts from overseas, interstate and SA gathered at the three-day conference to discuss key population issues that were

pivotal to the growth.

"It is fitting that SA hosts the conference given that that state has enjoyed the highest 12 month growth in population in 14 years, including the highest levels of overseas migration recorded in 34 years," Minister Maywald said.

She said one way the State Government was addressing the issue was funding regional migration officers at a number of regional development boards.

"These officers help attract migrants to the regions and work with local industry to ensure ready access to the nation's migration programs," she said.