

Agribusiness, Food and Wine Workforce Strategy

Project update

Background

In December 2025, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the Department of State Development (DSD) commenced work to develop a workforce strategy for the agribusiness, food and wine sector.

This project was recommended by the 2025 Business Case, which found that the agribusiness, food and wine sector is experiencing workforce challenges including skill shortages, attraction and retention, and other logistical barriers. Together, these challenges can act as a handbrake on the growth and sustainability of the sector.

To develop the strategy, PIRSA and DSD engaged with leaders in the agribusiness, food and wine sectors, AgTech, training, and fisheries and forestry, to identify barriers and explore opportunities for support in the sector workforce.

The following is an update on progress of this project, intended for participants in this project.

Engagement and participation



Engagement period:
9 December 2025 to 10 June 2026



79

representatives from



18

representatives from



62

industry organisations



7

government agencies

Consultation involved a series of 6 workshops across the state, which were held online due to the 2026 fuel supply impacts. The engagement was adapted to participants' needs, with additional one-on-one interviews being held with organisations which could not attend a workshop, to ensure their input was captured.

6
regional workshops



10
written submissions



38
1:1 meetings

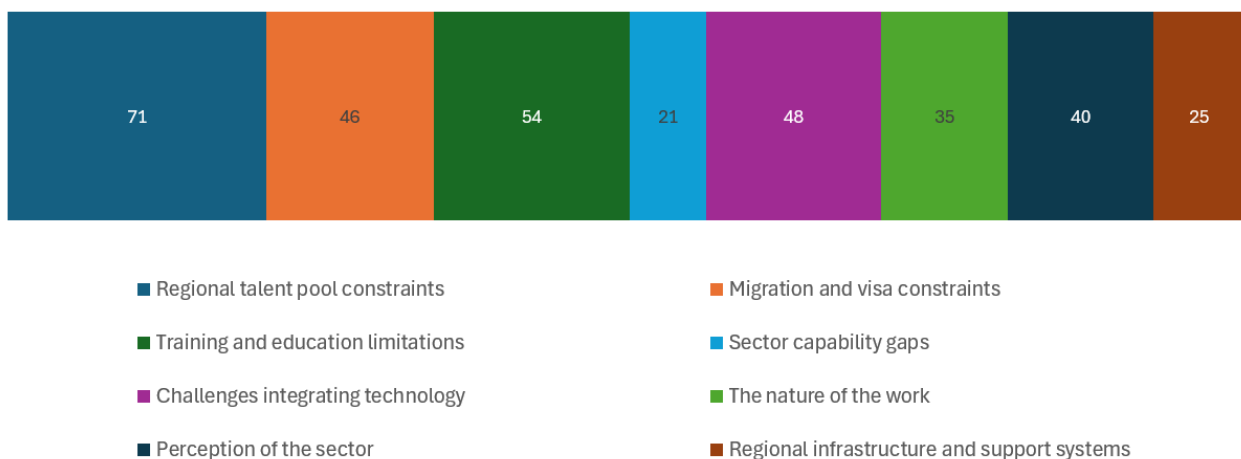


Results

Throughout the engagement period, participants shared a total of 340 items of feedback, which included issues, barriers, and opportunities to support the sector's workforce.

Participants' contributions were grouped by theme area:

- **Regional talent pool constraints:** shortages of key skills and qualifications in regional areas.
- **Migration and visa constraints:** logistical, structural, and financial barriers to migration pathways.
- **Training and education limitations:** limited training and upskilling capacity to meet sector needs.
- **Sector capability gaps:** critical skills gaps in primary production business owners and operators.
- **Challenges in integrating technology:** barriers to adopting and scaling new technological solutions.
- **The nature of the work:** aspects of the work making careers less appealing to potential workers.
- **Perception of the sector:** misconceptions about the sector and its career opportunities.
- **Regional infrastructure and support system gaps:** shortages of essential services and infrastructure dissuading relocation to regional South Australia.



The areas of greatest interest during discussions with participants were regional talent pool constraints, followed by training and education limitations. Gaps in the capabilities of employers in the sector were less prioritised. This may suggest that the sector broadly views challenges in workforce as coming from other sectors and processes, such as how and why people enter and exit the workforce.

How to get in touch

You can contact the project team at pirsa.strategyandpolicy@sa.gov.au.

You may have a representative on the **Project Reference Group**. The Project Reference Group is a joint Government-Sector advisory group, and works with DSD and PIRSA to ensure the Strategy is fit for purpose, representative, and meets the needs and aspirations of both the wider sector and the Government. They can directly advocate for your sector's needs and interests. Please reach out to your representative directly if you would like to learn more.

Project Reference Group Members	
Sector representatives	Government representatives
Primary Producers SA	Department of State Development
Lead Agriculture Teacher	Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Food SA	Department for Education
Seafood Industry SA	
South Australian Wine Industry Association	
Regional Development Australia	

Next steps

DSD, PIRSA, and the Project Reference Group are working together to develop participants' contributions into a clear Workforce Strategy. DSD and PIRSA will seek the Project Reference Group's endorsement of the draft Strategy.

We will provide further updates when they are available.