

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

## Kangaroo Island businesses fill venue for Information Session on Major Developments

Over 100 people attended the Business Support Services Information Session held on Wednesday 20 January at the Acacia Apartments in Kingscote.

“I was delighted to see so many people at the session” said Commissioner for Kangaroo Island, Ms Wendy Campana. “It demonstrates that many Islanders are keen to be engaged in the \$171 million of proposed projects taking place on the Island.”

The meeting was jointly presented by the Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island and the Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance (KIIBA), who have been commissioned to undertake the delivery of business and employment support services with consultants, Claire Ellis and Sue Arlidge. This project is targeting those interested in securing contracts, sub-contracts and employment through major developments on the Island as well as businesses who come from the region.

Information on the \$171 million of confirmed and proposed major developments on Kangaroo Island, with a focus on the Kingscote Airport upgrade was provided at the session as well as the opportunities for local contractors, tradespeople and associated businesses to be involved in these projects. Following presentations from Panel members, participants had the opportunity to ask questions about the developments and what it meant for businesses on the Island. The Panel included:

- **Andrew Boardman** - Chief Executive Officer, Kangaroo Island Council
- **Wendy Campana** – Commissioner for Kangaroo Island
- **Tim Hutchinson** - Regional Manager, Business Development and Regions, TAFE SA
- **Brett Mayne** – Regional Manager, Workforce Development Skills Employment and Higher Education Branch of the Department of State Development

Some key areas of discussion included water and electricity supply, timing of the projects, procurement processes, pre-qualification requirements and opportunities for business collaboration.

“These developments will require over 300 jobs on the Island in their construction and operation. I will be working with the developers to ensure that Kangaroo Island individuals and businesses are in the best position to be involved in these projects” said Ms Campana.

The Information Session was well received with around 60 participants submitting a form to indicate the areas of development they would like to be involved with as well as types of training programs and services that would support their business readiness.

The next stage of this project will be assessing the needs of businesses on the Island and progressing an urgent application to the Federal Government and working with State Government to support business services on the Island. This will ensure business readiness by delivering training and support services such as tender-ready workshops, training, and work-ready support to prospective contractors and employees.

This event was the first of a series of information sessions that will focus on new and business growth opportunities in other sectors. “In addition to the contractors and tradespeople who will be

involved in the earlier stages of these developments, there will be knock on benefits in the tourism, food and wine, retail and agricultural sectors and specifically targeted forums and support services will be provided to these sectors as well” said Ms Campana.

Resources from this Information Session, including meeting content and forms to indicate interest in being involved in major projects on the Island are available on the Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island’s website: [www.kangarooislandcommissioner.sa.gov.au/news\\_feed](http://www.kangarooislandcommissioner.sa.gov.au/news_feed).