

Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

43 Dauncey Street, Kingscote SA 5223 • T: 08 8553 4525 • E: pa-to-commissioner@kicouncil.sa.gov.au
Level 6, Roma Mitchell House, 136 North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000 • PO Box 1533 Adelaide SA 5001
T: 08 8343 2811 • E: wendy.campana@sa.gov.au

PRESS RELEASE

MARINE SANCTUARY ZONES – MORE WORK TO DO ON KANGAROO ISLAND

In the lead up to the preparation of the report sought by Minister Brock on the Regional Impact Assessment Statement (RIAS) on Sanctuary Zones the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island, Wendy Campana, got a strong message that the fishing industry wanted to be heard.

“A briefing by the State Government on the RIAS process, the role of the Centre for Economic Studies and peer review by the Goyder Institute was outlined at a forum with the terms of reference discussed. In addition a small group of those present were given the task of putting together a submission which highlighted the economic impacts on the fishing industry” the Commissioner said.

The submission from the fishing industry on Kangaroo Island:

- included data that pointed to net fishers in the Bay of Shoals being impacted by the Zones and that this was having an impact on local produce being available for sale;
- other data included related to the impact on lobster boats which suggested catching less; working more days; increased fuel costs;
- indicated losses to the abalone take;
- pointed out that the RIAS outcomes would be affected by insufficient timelines for the study as some of the seasons for lobster, hook, netting and abalone were not able to be adequately studied;

“It is pleasing to see the study confirms some of the points raised in the submission put forward by the fishing industry on the Island. Recommendations seeking further work by SARDI in the Bay of Shoals areas is required, further analysis is required of the impacts for abalone fishers over a greater duration and that confirmation was required of the impact on costs for lobster fishers. On these issues the Kangaroo Island fishing industry has been heard and I have no doubt that they will be pleased to work with the State Government and SARDI on these issues going forward”.

“The need for data to be released is important and I will be talking to our fishing industry here on the Island to ensure that issues raised can be backed up by data.

“The Kangaroo Island submission also suggested that there would be value in looking at:

- Pilot areas; or
- Multi-use zones; or
- Setting aside an area for a period of time and gathering agreed environmental and economic data during that period.

“I will be keen to discuss these issues with Minister Hunter and will be ensuring that the stakeholders on Kangaroo Island consider the report and participate in future work.

“Our industry here on the Island has also raised the suggestion that consideration be given to having a Kangaroo Island Marine Park and that there may be a case for creating “habitat protection zones” so I am keen to explore these issues further”, said the Wendy Campana.

Contact Wendy Campana on mobile 0417 861 783 for any comment.