



Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

MEDIA RELEASE

Building Better Regions success

27 September 2017

Commissioner for Kangaroo Island Wendy Campana together with Mayor Peter Clements have welcomed the announcement of the success of their joint funding application to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions fund.

The grant for \$155,300 has been awarded to the Kangaroo Island Council, and they will work with the Commissioner's office to deliver the Growth Project alongside the Commissioner's Transformation Project which is already working with business sectors across the Island.

The Building Better Regions grant will be used to:

- increase local business knowledge, capability and 'business readiness' for growth;
- develop an engagement and collaboration strategy to drive effective regional planning; and,
- increase the business confidence level of Kangaroo Island business leaders and emerging leaders.

These key objectives will be achieved via a series of workshops, business events and training programs due to commence shortly.

Mayor Peter Clements is looking forward to these projects getting underway.

"I congratulate Commissioner Wendy Campana for creating the Growth Project Management Plan which jointly recognises with Council the growth opportunities that exist in and around our economy," the Mayor said.

"There is evidence already that the stimulus created by Council's airport upgrade and the visitor accommodation projects in the pipeline are having a positive effect on current thinking with residents on the Island. The Plantation Timbers project will add another layer of economic build-up within the Island economy and it is critical that we are prepared well in advance of start-up dates. Some of these projects such as the Emu Bay Housing Development are already providing work to critical areas of the local economy, but the challenges we face when multiple projects are implemented will be in housing and accommodation and people to take up the job positions. The Commissioner's Management Plan addresses these key issues and I encourage all businesses and industry bodies to support the plan," Mayor Clements said.

"With several major projects due to come on line on the Island, it is necessary to ensure Kangaroo Island is 'business ready'. To this end, sectors such as construction, tourism, both local and international, produce export and professional services will be included," Wendy Campana said.



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“This funding will be instrumental in assisting our businesses, and I look forward to continuing to work with Council on this project.”

Along with workshops with key infrastructure project leaders to discuss business opportunities, employment and skills, a cross-industry one-day business event is planned.

If you are interested in receiving information regarding the Growth Project, or to sign up to the Transformation Project mailing list, please email kicommissioner@sa.gov.au or telephone 8553 4525.