



## Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Population growing

2 August 2017

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recently released its regional data relating to the 2016 census, and for Kangaroo Island, the news is good. It indicates that Kangaroo Island's population increased a lot more than was previously thought. Over the period 2011 to 2016, Kangaroo Island's estimated resident population increased from 4522 to 4852, at an average annual rate of 1.4 per cent.

This is higher than South Australia's 0.9 per cent average annual growth rate over the same period. The total stock of dwellings counted on census night in August 2016 was 3150 and of these dwellings, around 38 per cent (1100) were unoccupied.

The Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island (OCKI) has been working on several projects for more than two years, to support the anticipated increase in population, some of which is directly related to the more than \$181m of developments proposed or approved on the Island.

The delivery of essential services such as power, water and transport, are vital to the Island's future, as is the work required under the Housing Management Plan for Kangaroo Island, considered under the Commissioner's Act that was the subject of consultation during mid-2016 and then adopted by the Commissioner in December 2016.

The optimum resident population for the Island is being considered through the Economic Growth Advisory Board and housing issues are being addressed through the Commissioner's Housing Advisory Board.

Commissioner Wendy Campana works closely with the Kangaroo Island Council when taking all of these factors into consideration.

"Having this ABS data available to inform the work of the Advisory Boards and the Housing Management Plan, coupled with work we have commissioned in relation to demographic changes, will be critical to meeting the needs of a growing future population," Wendy Campana said.

Mayor Peter Clements agrees.

"The latest ABS data is a welcome result and proves that the predicted strong interest in Kangaroo Island is already happening," Peter Clements said.

"Increasing our population to a sustainable level is vital for our economy in order to increase our rate payer base. The expectation is for this trend to continue into the next decade with the establishment of more Island attractions and small businesses," he said.

"Council is working closely with the Commissioner's office to ensure our Island's future."