

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

PROJECT BRIEF

Economic, Social and Ecological Sustainability Indicators for Kangaroo Island

INTRODUCTION

Over \$182 million of projects have been approved or in the planning and development stages, which will create over 300 additional jobs on Kangaroo Island over the next 2 – 3 years. As a result of this potential growth the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island is keen to work with key government and non-government stakeholders to understand the sustainability issues that should underpin population growth, increased tourism and industry growth on the Island. It is recognised as vital that visitation, development and ensuing economic growth is managed to ensure that the very attraction and intrinsic value of Kangaroo Island is not degraded or lost.

A separate project undertaken by the Commissioner has identified the job opportunities, the timing of the various stages of the projects and their impact on the Kangaroo Island community including infrastructure. It is also likely that there will be other “knock on” opportunities generated by current businesses that will result in employment growth that have not yet been quantified.

It is anticipated that a series of indicators or measures could be identified to guide the decisions of businesses, government and the community as they work to support the growth that these projects potentially will provide.

AIM

1. To undertake a project that will identify the sustainability issues for the Kangaroo Island community and answer such questions as:
 - What is an economically, socially and ecologically sustainable demographic for Kangaroo Island?
 - How is this economically, socially and ecologically sustainable demographic determined and what factors should be monitored?
 - What are the needs generated through population growth in terms of housing, recreation, utilities, education, roads, transport, hospitals, community services etc? What impact will these have on the ecological carrying capacity of the Island?
 - Given population growth will be driven by economic opportunities and tourism has significant capacity to grow (potentially more so than available productive land constraints for primary production), what is a sustainable tourism visitation number for Kangaroo Island to support a sustainable population and what impact will seasonal adjustments have in the short and long term?
 - What other factors need to be taken into consideration?
 - What are the roles of government, businesses and the community in ensuring economic, social ecological sustainability on the Island?
2. To identify specific economic and ecological sustainability measures/indicators that could be adopted by governments and businesses as a guide during the growth proposed for the Island.

3. To engage the community, businesses, industry peak bodies, government and other interested stakeholders in the development of the indicators and monitoring strategies.
4. To determine an appropriate framework and approach to reporting on the indicators, including timelines and format.

METHODOLOGY

It is proposed that the project be undertaken utilising the following steps.

STEP 1: DESK TOP RESEARCH

To identify the various studies that have been undertaken to develop indicators, especially in an Island environment, and to identify the scope and nature of the indicators and the approach adopted to develop, collect data and report on the indicators, including timelines.

Outcome: A short discussion paper outlining the findings that will be used as part of the consultation phase in Step 2.

STEP 2: CONSULTATION

Utilising the information gathered in Step 1, conduct a series of workshops with government, including Council, peak industry bodies and the community to report on the desk top research and start the process of identifying the areas for which indicators could be established, including the reasons for each indicator and data likely to be required.

Outcome: A discussion paper including the outcomes of the workshop discussions and a broad set of indicators for consideration of adoption.

STEP 3: THE SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS PROPOSAL

Having regard to information gathered through steps 1 and 2 prepare a proposal which includes proposals for the:

- Indicators to be adopted, which might include a progressive approach to building the desired set of indicators;
- Data required to report against the indicators, including any progressive needs;
- Reporting format and timelines;
- Approach to reporting on outcomes related to the indicators;
- Proposed costs and management arrangements;
- Other relevant matters.

The proposal to be put out for public consultation with written responses received within a set period, say 2 weeks.

Form a small reference group to be formed comprising representatives from the interested parties and stakeholders who will consider the proposal and feedback and make final recommendations for the project.

STEP 4: FINAL PROPOSAL

A final proposal is provided to the project funding partners for consideration/adoption.

PROPOSED TIMEFRAME

It is anticipated that the project would be undertaken over an 8 – 12 month period and will be conducted across two financial years.

PROJECT COSTS

It is estimated that the project would cost up to \$90,000 for completion. Contributions of \$10,000 will be sought with the payments of \$5,000 per year over two years.

Funding partners:

- Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island
- Kangaroo Island Council
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Department of State Development
- Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
- South Australian Tourism Commission
- Department for Education and Child Development
- Department of Health and Ageing

Funding may be available from the Federal Government, however no obvious grant program has been identified to date.