

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island**MEDIA RELEASE****Commissioner for Kangaroo Island****Regional Updates****June 2019**

Group Work at the Kingscote Regional Update Session 1 July 2019

In the closing 11 months of the role of Commissioner for Kangaroo Island and the operation of the Office with our one staff member Jennifer Trethewey, “regional workshops were offered across the Island to put to bed some ongoing rumours about my role beyond 1 July and that of Jen’s and to give an update to the community on where we have been, issues that are still ongoing and to identify unfinished business and ongoing needs” said Wendy Campana, Commissioner for KI.

The sessions were conducted jointly with PIRSA, KI NRM, DEW and Department of Trade, Tourism & Investment providing update presentations.

In running the session the Commissioner, Wendy Campana, highlighted that “in the beginning we provided our workshops and updates as a single office, it is important that today we are joined by some of the key government agencies that we have continued to work with. This is a clear demonstration that close links have been formed with our office and among these agencies that will continue beyond my term of office”.

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Workshops were conducted over three days, in Penneshaw, Kingscote, Parndana and American River. Over 70 people attended the workshops and actively participated.

Wendy said “I want to specifically highlight the American River Workshop. This was not on our original running list due to time constraints, however, following contact from Jen Stevenson we added a session and the American River Progress Association worked hard to ensure we had an audience given the late notice. It was great to have 14 people in attendance and actively participating.

The top priorities and recurring issues raised at the workshops for continuing monitoring, advice or work were:

- Costs of the ferry and infrastructure upgrade needs while recognising the current government progress with the tender for the service – freight, passenger services and tourism impacts were raised;
- Road maintenance and upgrades;
- Putting in a place a plan and responsibilities for taking up the work of the Commissioner’s Office post cessation of the role;
- Workforce planning and addressing skills needs/gaps and building on the work underway through research undertaken to date;
- Provision of affordable housing for aged, youth and young families while recognising the great work through projects under consideration by KI Community Housing Association and the Parndana project by KI Community Club supported under the Commissioner’s Housing Management Plan;
- Telecommunications – instability/capacity on the island for mobile coverage and internet while recognising some great local solutions and services;
- Support for tourism development and promotion with emphasis in some regions on the ongoing need for visitor information services/centre;
- Ensuring a balance in government decision making against environmental, social and economic outcomes.

There were also a range of other issues that were either localised or generally applicable to the Island but not raised in all locations such as support services for people needing assistance for drug and alcohol issues, increasing the number of volunteers, support for emergency services, initiating music and other festivals, weed control, local tourism initiatives, cost of electricity and so on.

There will be two further workshops conducted over the next few weeks.

“We are keen to meet with the merged industry association board members and with Ag KI as these organisations have played a critical role in advising on the activities and issues that my Office has undertaken and will be key organisations working for the Island when my role ceases. Jen and I are also keen to hear from the past and current Leadership Program participants. These people have participated, or are currently, participating in a program which has received Australian Government funding and a contribution from our Office and are future leaders – they will be an important group to hear feedback from”, said Wendy.

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Brett Maine, Regional Manager covering KI from Department of Trade, Tourism & Investment outlined the key functions of his organisation, including recent changes resulting from the Joyce Report commissioned by the Marshall Liberal Government to provide recommendations on strategies to boost the SA economy.

Brett also highlighted the collaboration that has been entered into between DTTI and the Commissioner's Office to secure Jen on a half-time basis over the next 12 months to assist local businesses access and engage in trade and investment support and opportunities being offered through DTTI.

A paper will be prepared and distributed to all participants highlighting the key issues and priorities for the coming period, along with partners in delivery or addressing the issues and be available on our webpage. This paper will guide the work of the Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island in the final 11 months and likely to be available from early August.



American River Regional Update Session 2 July 2019.