



Kangaroo Island Regional Plan Visioning Workshop #2 – 14 July 2023

Regional plans are designated planning instruments under Section 46 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and set the long-term vision and direction for strategic planning and land use for the next 15 to 30 years. Regional plans contain clear principles for orderly development and the management of growth within a region.

South Australia is divided into seven proclaimed planning regions, and each have their own separate regional plan. The Department for Trade and Investment – Planning and Land Use Services (DTI – PLUS) are developing regional plans on behalf of the State Planning Commission. DTI-PLUS are conducting a collaborative approach with councils, other government agencies, infrastructure organisations, industry, and local communities, to inform the plans preparation.

This document reflects the information collected as part of a second workshop held on Kangaroo Island and will be another source of information in the initial stages of developing the Kangaroo Island Regional Plan.

Engagement So Far

To date pre-workshop engagement activities, designed to inform councils, state agencies, and key industry representatives, have been conducted by the Department. The first Kangaroo Island Workshop was held on 9 December 2022 with a second workshop held on 14 July 2023.

The “What We Heard” document from the December 2022 workshop is available via:

plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1196942/What-We-Heard-KI-Visioning-Workshop.pdf

This second workshop was conducted to ensure the aspirations and vision held for Kangaroo Island by key environmental interest groups and organisations were captured. 31 participants attended the workshop, representing a broad range of environmental interests in addition to the tourism sector and Council. The depth of knowledge in the room during the workshop enabled the Commission to gain an understanding of the priorities held for the island into the long-term future.

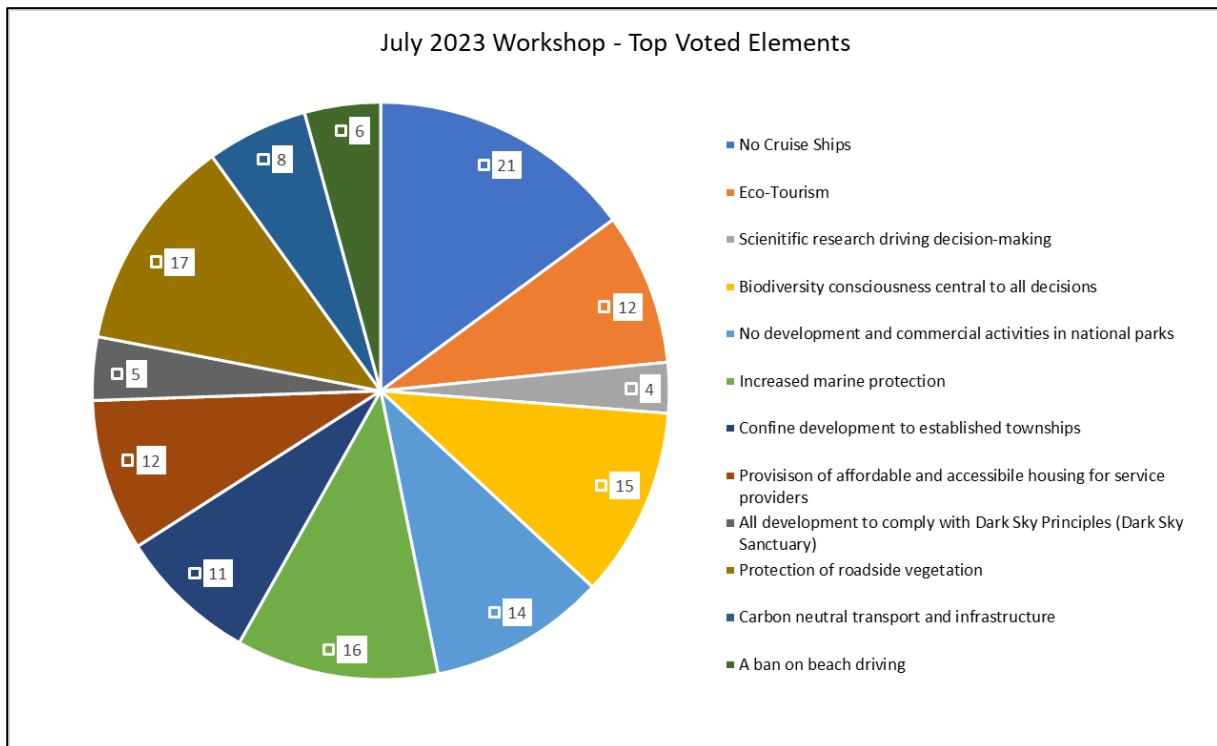
The information collected during these two Visioning Workshops will play a critical role in shaping the Kangaroo Island Regional Plan.



Figure 1: State Planning Commission Chair Craig Holden and Commission Member Stephanie Johnston close the productive July 2023 workshop session

What We Heard – July 2023 Workshop

The participants at the second workshop were asked to identify key vision issues that they felt should be reflected in the Kangaroo Island Plan. Each of the vision issues were grouped under the four guiding themes of the Regional Plan, and a voting process took place to identify key priority areas for each theme. The following graph indicates the top issues voted upon with the relevant voting weight given by the participants:



Workshop participants were then asked to work with the facilitators to consider each vision theme and identify the spatial issues that should be addressed in the Regional Plan.

Further, workshop participants identified “enablers” across the short, medium, and long term that would assist to achieve the vision sought for Kangaroo Island.

Key aspirations and issues emerging were:

Productive Economy

- Maximise eco-tourism opportunities and the promotion of industries and farming on the Island adopting biodiversity strategies that incorporate sustainable infrastructure development and retain the balance between conservation and preservation.
- Explore the potential for Kangaroo Island to be a global exemplar for sustainable living and tourism experiences and make the Island carbon neutral, introducing educational and scientific research opportunities as new key drivers of the economy.
- Examine the potential for the Island to become a designated environmental zone and/or through the Federal Government establishing the Island as a World Heritage or Biosphere area.
- Enable the Island to be adopt energy independence and be a world leader in green energy practices through the identification of specific parcels of land and conduct pilot/demonstration projects.
- Assess the impact of cruise ship visits to the Island by establishing their contribution to the local economy and potential impact on promotion of environmentally sustainability.

Natural Resources, Environment and Landscapes

- Enhance planning frameworks for the management of sea level rise and minimise development on the coastal conservation zone along with increased marine protection strategies.
- Ensure biodiversity and security measures are central to all decision making and promote stronger protection of nature vegetation, the integrity of the habitat on the Island by further protecting national parks and reserves.
- Improve environmental education by having more community events and information especially targeted at children, youth and tourists visiting the Island.
- Address fire management strategies and ensure a balance between needs of the natural habitats and protection of people and places.
- Appoint specialist ecological experts in planning departments to advise and guide decisions and develop biodiversity mapping and regenerative faming and restorative aquaculture policies and practices.

Transport and Infrastructure

- Restrict roads, beach driving and other infrastructure developments in wilderness areas and address speed limit restrictions across the Island in key areas.
- Introduce cycling trails and promote cycling as a mode of transport on the Island and increase and promote environmentally sustainable public transport options.
- Protect roadside vegetation and better regulate the removal of tree limbs from roadsides by the public.
- Require energy efficiency standards and principles to be adopted in transport and infrastructure builds.
- Work towards promoting the Island as “petrol and diesel” free and increase the provision of electric power stations while adopting carbon neutral infrastructure and transport provision.

People, Housing & Liveability

- Increase the diversity of housing (affordable and workers) and adopt energy efficiency practices and models along with environmentally sensitive housing designs.
- Put in place waste management strategies that focus on recycling and other sustainable options.
- Confine development to townships and improve accessibility to aged care and medical facilities while adopting “Dark Sky Principles” for development.
- Introduce a higher standard of building requirements in fire zone areas through changes to the Building Code.
- Introduce green spaces in townships improve the tree canopy in residential areas and enable larger blocks in rural areas.
- Population growth is balanced with the ability to achieve environmental sustainability and maintaining good housing design principles with the cautious introduction of multi-storey buildings in townships.
- Continue to respect and support those on the Island still suffering trauma from the recent bushfires and engage them in conversations about their future needs and concerns ensuring there is visible acknowledgement of this engagement.

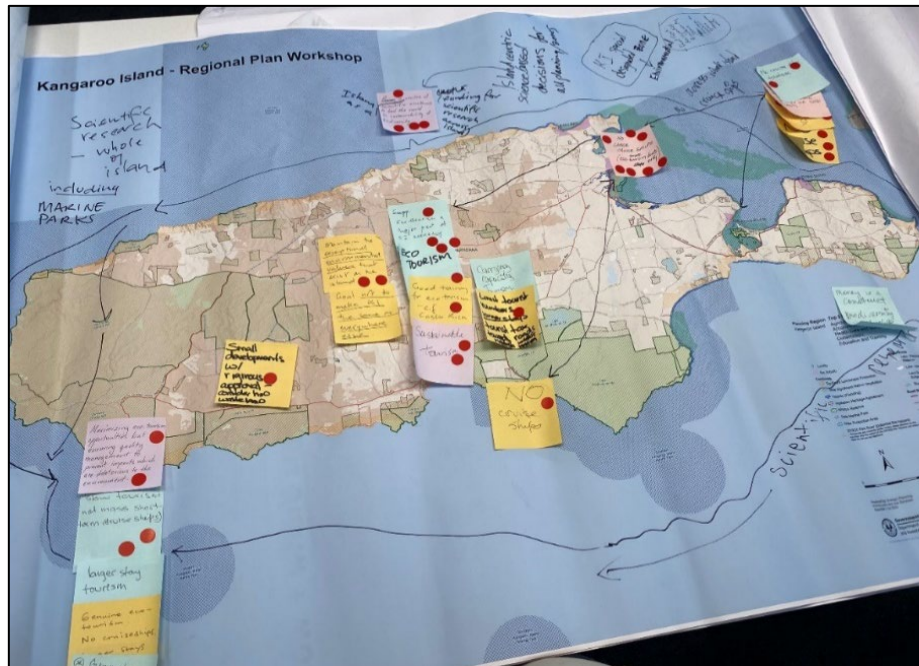


Figure 2: A marked-up map with aspirations and interventions evident – a task replicated for each of the four themes

Next Steps

A draft Kangaroo Island Regional Plan is under preparation, having considered the range of feedback received in the initial phase of engagement. Public consultation is scheduled to commence in Q4 2023, and engagement activities will be developed to support wide-ranging participation by the community and stakeholders, with opportunities for in-person and online feedback. Details of these engagement activities will be communicated once available.

Contact

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