



## Kangaroo Island Regional Plan

### Overview

Between 14 March 2024 and 6 June 2024, communities, councils, state agencies, industries, interest groups and other key stakeholders were invited to have their say on the Kangaroo Island Regional Plan (the KIRP).

The KIRP is the first of seven new regional plans for South Australia to be developed in a 100% digital, dynamic, and interactive Regional Planning Portal. This will allow for real-time updates which will ensure the plan remains contemporary and provides users easy access to the regional plans via the accessible interface.

The KIRP addresses key priorities for Kangaroo Island, such as preserving the Island's pristine natural environment, promoting economic prosperity and ensuring there is enough housing. The KIRP is a visionary 30-year roadmap for Kangaroo Island, aimed at fostering a resilient, prosperous, healthy, and connected future for the island's communities. Climate change mitigation, convenient transport infrastructure, and diverse housing options will be integral to achieving this vision of sustainable growth and community well-being.

This document provides an overview of the engagement activities undertaken and a short summary of the main themes of feedback received during the engagement process.

### Who We Heard From

Submissions and survey responses were received from a range of stakeholders including members of the public, landowners, industry, community groups and government. We received around 200 responses via online and hard copy submissions, YourSAy survey responses, and youth survey responses.

Many individuals and organisations provided detailed and comprehensive feedback on the KIRP, and we are grateful for their contribution.

### What We Heard

Whilst the feedback received from the survey and submissions covered a diverse range of topics and viewpoints, the key areas of feedback can be categorised under the following four themes of the KIRP:

- People, housing and liveability
- Productive economy
- Natural resources, environment and landscapes
- Transport and infrastructure.

Feedback was well spread across all themes, with people, housing and liveability and natural resources, environment and landscapes as the two most highly rated or commented on themes.

## People, Housing and Liveability

Key feedback relating to this theme included:

- Respondents recognised the challenge of balancing development with the preservation of Kangaroo Island's unique character and liveability, particularly in terms of housing and infrastructure.
- A recurring theme among respondents was the need for diverse and affordable housing supply that caters to the community's needs, particularly for older people and seasonal workers. This was especially so in main townships including Kingscote, Penneshaw, Parndana and American River.
- Respondents were eager to see support for sustainable ways for people to live on Kangaroo Island. Many recognised the challenge and unique context of this along with high tourism visitation and changing community demographics.
- There were mixed views on development and population growth. While some respondents were keen to see communities and tourism grow, seeking additional zoning changes to enable more subdivisions and tourism accommodation, others were concerned about growth and advocated for population caps.
- Most respondents were keen to see any growth centred around existing towns where possible, with acknowledgement that infrastructure upgrades (such as healthcare, roads and utilities) will need to occur to sustain larger communities.
- There is an acknowledged tension between tourism, housing supply and the needs of local residents. Short term holiday rentals are seen as exacerbating these issues.
- There were concerns raised about development in Emu Bay, especially where it encroaches on existing green spaces which acts as a fire barrier for the town. Some residents expressed concern that development would detract from the beauty of the area. Some also suggested that the township could not sustain more people.

## Productive Economy

Key feedback relating to this theme included:

- A recognition of the importance of primary production and the role this has on creating economic prosperity on the Island. Primary production requires a range of supports including workforce, infrastructure and interface with other land uses.
- Tourism was also recognised as important to the Island, with some urging for updated data to be reflected in the Portal. Some noted the impacts of tourism on housing supply and the natural environment, with a keenness to see this continually balanced and enhanced.
- The lack of worker housing was recognised as affecting the ability to attract and retain staff in sectors like agriculture, tourism and healthcare.
- The importance of mineral resources as both export and supporting agriculture, was recognised by community and stakeholders.
- A proportion of respondents suggested that they would not like to see economic activity encouraged were it at the cost of wildlife and the natural environment. Protection of the Island's natural resources not only supports tourism (as a key drawcard for the region) but contributes to liveability and amenity of residents.
- Diversification of industry on the Island was suggested by several respondents. Some flagged there needs to be less reliance on primary production and tourism. With greater opportunity for the growth of food/hospitality industries, arts and culture.

## Natural Resources, Environment and Landscapes

Key feedback relating to this theme included:

- Feedback from respondents that the natural environment is seen as a key foundation for the Island's economy, health, well-being, and liveability.
- Respondents suggested that the Island's pristine natural beauty, particularly in tourist areas like Emu Bay, Stokes Bay, Snellings Beach, and Vivonne Bay, should be protected from development. There was a concern from some respondents that development in these areas could detract from their charm and appeal.
- There was mixed feedback on the location of growth and the use of Conservation Zones. Some suggested that the preservation of native vegetation within townships is essential and not allowing development to encroach on the native vegetation and the environment. Other respondents were keen to see areas of appropriately zoned land next to existing townships, to allow for growth, with scrub blocks in Parndana as a good example of these mixed views.
- The protection of coastal areas from development was seen important by some. Specific comments were received around the impact of cruise ships on the Island, and a desire to better regulate vehicles on beaches.

- Some respondents sought greater action and response to climate change, particularly relating to sea level rise, flood risk and impact of hazards like bushfires.

## Transport and Infrastructure

Key feedback relating to this theme included:

- Reliance on the ferry service is a significant issue with the Island community, with strong feedback around this. Respondents reported of the difficulty of accessing this service (availability and reliability of service) and the significant cost to residents reliant on the ferry to get to the mainland. Competition with freight, and this potentially adding time and cost to industry and the cost of housing supply was also reported. There was some commentary about the need for long term planning for an alternative ferry/port location.
- Respondents, particularly residents of the Island, reported the need for improvements to road infrastructure. This particularly related to road condition, sealing and widening in some locations.
- There was support for the Island plan for more active travel options like cycle lanes and improved walkability within and between townships.

## Youth

A youth survey was undertaken to see what Kangaroo Island's young people thought about the current state and future development of the Island. Key feedback themes included:

- Most young people who completed the survey see themselves living on the Island at some stage in the future, with most suggesting they might move away for a period and return later in life.
- The majority of young respondents would like to live on a rural property, with very few wanting to live in more dense forms of housing like townhouses and apartments.
- The feedback highlighted value of a strong sense of community, with community spirit and support from neighbours. The quiet, low-density population and the incorporation of the natural environment into towns are also highly appreciated, as they contribute to a peaceful and uncrowded living experience. There is a preference for maintaining the small-town feel with minimal development and preserving open spaces.
- The youth feedback reflects a strong desire to preserve Kangaroo Island's current character, wanting the island to remain largely unchanged and maintaining its rural, country vibe and avoiding overdevelopment.

## Townships

A range of useful and specific feedback was received relating to the main towns on Kangaroo Island, with some of the key commentary listed below.

### Kingscote

- Aesthetic of Kingscote being rundown and houses and public infrastructure needing an upgrade.
- The lack of services and infrastructure in Kingscote and need for better services including medical/transport (not just Sealink) and emergency were flagged as crucial to liveability.
- Protect vegetation in areas earmarked for future development.

### Penneshaw

- Increase local services such as medical and cafes.
- Improve public realm amenity and including decluttering, improved signage and walking/bike paths. Some concern expressed about current freight movements through the town and pedestrian safety.
- Concern about scale of cruise ship tourism and impacts on liveability and environment.
- Protect vegetation in areas earmarked for future development.
- Mixed views about the proposed golf estate tourism accommodation development.

### Parndana

- Mixed views between balancing native vegetation with more housing in Parndana.
- Want better access to services, including a post office.
- Residents support active transport initiatives, such as completing the walking and cycling track, and appreciate local landmarks like the pub and Soldier Settler Museum but also call for upgrades to the community hall.
- Good location for more worker housing.

### American River

- Need for more shops, eateries, basic services.
- Opportunities for sensitively sited tourism.
- Importance of preserving the town's character, with mixed opinions on higher density.
- Consider new activity centre in American River.
- Protect heavily vegetated areas from development. Particular concern about protecting the glossy black cockatoo habitat.

## Regional Planning Portal

We also received lots of feedback on the presentation of the KIRP about the Regional Planning Portal. Comments received have provided us with useful feedback on the usability of the Portal, along with improvements for user experience. In particular comments sought to improve the transparency of data, how multiple layers and data sets can be used together, and how to improve the experience for those who may have low bandwidth/connectivity or less accustomed to using this type of online tool.

## Next steps

All feedback received during the 12-week consultation will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the final version of the KIRP.

Once updated, the revised KIRP will be submitted to the State Planning Commission for endorsement. Following endorsement, it will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

We anticipate the finalised KIRP will be publicly released early 2025 and made available via the [Regional Planning Portal](#).

## Contact

Enquiries relating to the Kangaroo Island Regional Plan can be directed to:

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