



Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Towards Developing the Economic Agenda for KI

15 November 2019

The State's objective for an average of 3% State-wide annual economic growth target has created interest among Kangaroo Island (KI) industry associations who are working through their future plans.

Representatives from all spheres of government, Austrade, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, KI industry associations and the Regional Development Australia Board took part in a workshop to inform the development of an Economic Agenda for KI.

The Hon. David Ridgway MLC, Minister for Trade, Tourism & Investment outlined the State Government's Economic Growth Agenda and worked with participants to assist them to align and influence the development of the agenda through focussing on KI opportunities and challenges.

Participants discussed the State Government's Joyce Report, which for the purposes of economic growth, promotes a stronger and more targeted role for Department of Trade, Tourism & Investment (DTTI) in working with businesses and industry sectors to support growth. Minister Ridgway also updated participants on recent progress working with industry in developing the growth agenda.

Infrastructure SA CEO, Jeremy Conway, gave an update to participants on progress with the preparation of the SA Infrastructure Plan and Steve Shotton, Regional Manager, Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island outlined the directions for regional economic growth.

Steve Shotton, Regional Development Manager, said "connections and collaborations between Island networks and stakeholders is paramount for the island to maximise growth - RDA offers a medium for this to occur and facilitate outcomes for all concerned".

Participants also gained a briefing from Austrade and DFAT about the benefits and opportunities for KI businesses created by Australia's new Free Trade Agreements (in force), recently signed agreements (not in force) and those in negotiation. They also heard from Australian Trusted Trader, TradeStart and AusIndustry about Government assistance available for business.

KI Mayor, Michael Pengilly presented the Council's future directions for economic growth.

KI Developers Angelo Kotses from Bickfords, Jack Dahan from The Cliffs Kangaroo Island and Keith Lamb from KI Planation Timbers updated participants on their developments and Tim Saul from NBN provided a briefing on the status and issues related to KI's connectivity.

Industry Sector Breakout Sessions, chaired by Chairpersons of the KI Business & Brand Association, KI Tourism Hospitality Food Wine & Beverage Association and Agriculture KI scoped the growth agenda, targets, opportunities and challenges. These sessions were facilitated by state government agency representatives and executive officers and staff of the industry associations.

The timing of this initiative comes with the recent amalgamation of four business associations into two. This resulted in the KI Industry and Brand Alliance and Business KI joining to form the new *KI Business and Brand Alliance*; and Tourism KI and KI Food and Wine joining to form the new *KI Tourism, Food, Wine & Beverage Association*.

These new business associations together with AgKI, particularly in light of the impending cessation of the Commissioner for KI, are keen to strengthen working relationships with the State Government.

"With the recent amalgamation of the tourism/hospitality and the food and wine associations, the new body is developing its strategic plan and government relationship agenda. This forum has come at an opportune time to commence the development of our agenda" said Pierre Gregor, Chair, KI Tourism, Food, Wine and Beverage Association.

Rick Morris, Chair of Agriculture KI said "the agriculture industry on KI has a rich history and establishing a growth agenda will focus our industry's attention on what we can achieve collaboratively. We look forward to developing our agenda, including addressing the impact we are now seeing as a result of the drought and welcome Federal Government investment and Council collaboration in finding workable long term solutions".

"The KI brand serves us well in differentiating our produce and business ethos. This forum will set our future growth agenda to reflect our Island's brand values. Businesses on the Island are keen to be involved in setting industry stretch goals and identifying strategies to achieve them alongside their government partners" said Brett Miller, Chair, KI Business & Brand Alliance.

Pictured L to R: Brett Miller Chair of Kangaroo Island Business & Brand Alliance, Pierre Gregor Chair of Kangaroo Island Tourism Food Wine & Beverage Association, Minister David Ridgway, Commissioner Wendy Campana and Rick Morris Chair of Agriculture Kangaroo Island.

