

Kangaroo Island Business and Brand Alliance

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January 25, 2021

Hon Corey Wingard Minister for Infrastructure and Transport GPO Box 1533, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the 195 business members of the Kangaroo Island Business and Brand Alliance (KIBBA) to request information and assurances regarding the safety and quality of marine infrastructure at Penneshaw and Cape Jervis. Our Board also seeks assurances about transport security for Kangaroo Island.

We note the following:

- 1. In 2019, Sealink was forced to suspend its services temporarily because the berthing facilities at Cape Jervis required emergency repairs, causing great concern among the community of Kangaroo Island. These structural problems had been notified in December 2017 (see pictures attached on following pages) but repairs were not effected at that time. Sealink is our only "road" connection to the mainland and essential for all freight to and from the Island. Our producers and in fact every business and every person on the Island depends on the reliability of this service.
- 2. During and for some months following the bushfires of 2019-20, the Sealink service was unable to cope with the volume of freight that needed to be mobilised for the fire-fighting effort and for the recovery. We have numerous examples of delays and compromises which affected both of these efforts and I am happy to furnish these to you if you require. Several examples include the mobilisation of heavy machinery and the timely delivery of emergency feed for stranded livestock. The rapid and extreme curtailing of ferry services because of tourism decline during the COVID-19 crisis appears to have exacerbated these delays.
- 3. The State Budget recently set aside \$40m for marine infrastructure upgrades but I can find no detail about those repairs and whether they might include ferry berthing infrastructure at Penneshaw or Cape Jervis.
- KIBBA participated in a ferry service consultation process on behalf of our members, which was facilitated by KPMG. We have received no report or feedback from that consultation process.

Given the above issues we request:

- 1. An assurance that the appropriate repairs have been done at Cape Jervis and that future notifications of urgent repairs will not be ignored.
- 2. That Sealink or any future operator of the ferry service will be required to maintain supplies to the Island in the event of an emergency or crisis and facilitate the







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movement of essential equipment even when tourist demand is low, such as during the COVID-19 shutdowns.

- 3. That essential ferry berthing infrastructure will receive a share of the \$40m funds in proportion to the critical importance of this service.
- 4. That KIBBA will have an opportunity to participate further in consultation and have input to the final contract to be negotiated with a new provider in the next three years so that we can help to secure a fair, affordable and equitable ferry service for Kangaroo Island businesses and the entire community.

Kind regards

Brett Miller

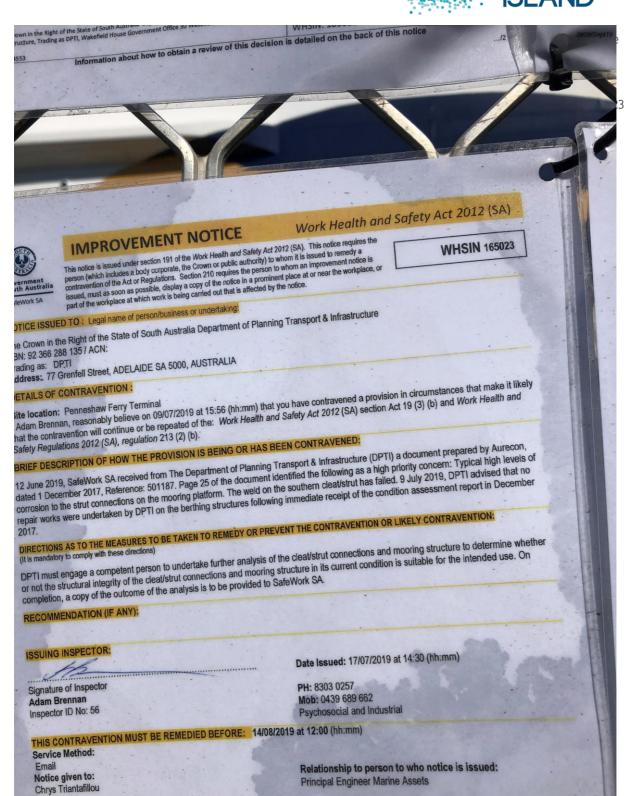
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cc Kangaroo Island Tourism, Food, Wine and Beverage Association Agriculture Kangaroo Island













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