

Hon Jay Weatherill MP

Premier

27 July, 2016

Support for Kangaroo Island businesses to increase growth, development

Businesses on Kangaroo Island will gain training and mentoring support through a State Government program so they can contribute to and benefit from economic growth on the island.

Premier Jay Weatherill visited Kangaroo Island today to celebrate the island's 180th Settlement Day and launch the Business Support Services Program.

The program will ensure local businesses are tender-ready and have the skills and knowledge to be successful in winning Government and private contracts.

It also aims to enhance the services of businesses to meet the 30 per cent additional tourism traffic that is anticipated over the coming years and provide them with access to experts within their industry area who will identify their development needs.

The \$188,000 program will support industry groups in the sectors of beverages; agriculture/ food production; retail/ services; construction; transport/ logistics; and tourism/ hospitality to:

- develop industry specific workforce self-assessment tools;
- undertake assessments and identify the workforce needs of individual businesses and industry groups;
- develop mentoring and training programs.

Background

The Business Support Services Program is the part of a broader Transformation Project for Kangaroo Island which has three elements:

- Assisting developers to work through government decision making processes
- Developing a Business Support Services Program
- Preparing a workforce plan for the Island so that we have work-ready employees available to fill created positions as businesses are created or expand on the island.

The Business Support Services Program also follows a pilot project that was completed in May. The pilot project provided training and mentoring to 10 businesses in the construction industry who want to be engaged in the upgrade of the Kangaroo Island Airport to support them to be tender-ready.

This \$72,300 pilot project included State Government funding, in addition to \$7300 from businesses participating in the program and \$21,000 from the Australian Government's Industry Skills Fund.

The \$18 million Kangaroo Island Airport upgrade, jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth governments, will accommodate larger aircraft and allow for direct, non-stop flights from Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill

This program will help ensure businesses are ready to take up opportunities from more than \$171 million of proposed and announced development projects on Kangaroo Island over next three to five years which are expected to create more than 300 jobs.

Kangaroo Island is facing a unique opportunity for growth and it's critical that businesses and prospective businesses are well placed to benefit and grow the local economy.

The program supports the *Kangaroo Island Economic Development Outlook* which outlines a range of economic opportunities for the island including major investments, projects and growth areas, demonstrating how Kangaroo Island can help grow South Australia's economy.

I'd also like to extend my congratulations to the citizens of Kangaroo Island on this 180th Settlement Day.

This beautiful place has played a crucial role in the development of our fundamentally fair and decent State. It has a rich and fabled history and I see the island as integral to our fashioning of a bright, creative and prosperous future for South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Kangaroo Island Commissioner Wendy Campana

I encourage businesses to sign up to take part in this exciting program which aims to increase business growth and development on Kangaroo Island, and hire local people.

This program also reflects the collaboration of the island's peak industry bodies, the Kangaroo Island Council and the Government of South Australia and the positive outcomes this collaboration will deliver to the island.

To assist businesses in understanding the opportunities for their industry, my office engaged the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies to provide an initial assessment of the economic impacts of the development projects. For more information visit the [website](#).

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