
Monday, 4 July 2011

EYRE AND WESTERN REGION PLAN – HAVE YOUR SAY

Minister for Urban Development, Planning and the City of Adelaide John Rau has encouraged the people of the Eyre and Western Region to have their say on a draft plan that aims to grow the region's economy while protecting the environment and scenic landscapes.

Releasing the draft Eyre and Western Region Plan for two months of public consultation, Mr Rau said the strategic document provides a coordinated vision for land use and development across this 230,000 square kilometre region.

“The plan aims to protect and preserve the region's environmental assets, such as coastal habitats, biodiversity and water resources, in a way that ensures the region can continue to attract and sustain population growth in the years to come,” Mr Rau said.

“The plan will help to carefully grow the region by expanding on existing and new industries but planning for and prioritising where future development can and cannot take place.”

The Eyre and Western Region is one of the state's largest regions in area and in 2008 had an estimated resident population of more than 58,000.

The draft plan aims to:

- make the best use of existing and planned infrastructure and facilitate infrastructure projects and upgrades to drive economic and employment growth
- maximise the region's competitive advantages in renewable energy, mining and aquaculture
- manage the region's population and industrial growth, with a focus on Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Ceduna, and facilitate access to appropriately sited land to support further development of the aquaculture and mining sectors and supporting infrastructure
- manage natural resources sustainably, protecting endangered species and landscapes of high natural and scenic value
- manage growth to protect and enhance natural, rural, coastal and industry assets
- adapt primary production to deal with variations in climate and water availability
- investigate sea-level inundation mapping which will integrate sea-level rise with storm events, high rainfall runoff and water table issues
- focus on Whyalla and Port Lincoln as regional industrial, commercial and service cities, while focusing on Ceduna as the major commercial and service centre of the west coast, with Wudinna, Cleve, Cowell and Cummins as supporting commercial and service centres
- investigate nature-based, adventure, culinary and sport tourism activities involving the coast and conservation parks

- identify and retain Aboriginal cultural heritage and European built heritage.

Mr Rau said the draft plan was the result of collaboration between state agencies, local councils, the Eyre Regional Development Board and the Whyalla Economic Development Board (now combined under Regional Development Australia), the Eyre Natural Resources Management Board and the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association.

Once finalised, the plan will become a volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy. This will give the plan statutory effect and will provide formal direction to local councils and the private sector. The final plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains aligned to relevant regional strategic plans.

The Eyre and Western Region Plan is released for public consultation until 22 August.

Councils will then prepare submissions which will be collated and reviewed. Further consultation will then be undertaken with the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association.

A copy of the plan can be accessed via the State Government website at www.sa.gov.au/regionplans

Print and CD-ROM copies are available from each of the local councils in the region.