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Tuna swim 'at odds' with plan

The "Swim with the Tuna" proposal for Kangaroo Island is at odds with the State Government's new growth plans for the region and should be rejected, according to local residents.

Backing calls by environmental group Eco-Action Kangaroo Island for the Swim with the Tuna plan to be scrapped, the Island Beach Ratepayers Association said such a facility would threaten the "clean and green" reputation of the island.

"The proposed Swim with the Tuna development is entirely inappropriate for Kangaroo Island and could seriously jeopardise the island's clean and green image," IBRA president Peter de Cure said. "Having an artificial

tuna farm bobbing in the bay messing with the area's sensitive marine environment would be a blight on the unspoiled coastal waters of Kangaroo Island.

"Such a contrived facility compromises the amenity of the coast, and significantly, flies in the face of the State Government's renewed commitment to protect the island's unique natural heritage and pristine environment."

Mr de Cure said IBRA applauded the State Government and Economic Development Board's commitment to growing Kangaroo Island as a world-class tourism asset and agricultural producer, but warned against developments that failed to reflect

the region's natural character.

"The Swim with the Tuna proposal is a completely inappropriate Gold Coast-style development that would undermine Kangaroo Island's eco-tourism potential and threatens its iconic status as one of Australia's most serene tourism destinations," says Mr de Cure.

"There are certainly some great opportunities to develop new infrastructure, increase tourism and grow Kangaroo Island, however it's vital that any new development is in keeping with the region's renowned natural image, which is what attracts so many people to the island."