

**ISLAND BEACH RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Kangaroo Island, South Australia**

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September 19, 2011

The Hon Mike Rann MP  
Premier of South Australia  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Premier,

**“SWIM WITH THE TUNA” PROPOSAL INCONSISTENT  
WITH KANGAROO ISLAND’S CLEAN AND GREEN IMAGE**

I am writing on behalf of the Island Beach Ratepayers Association on Kangaroo Island (IBRA) to express our grave concerns about the “Swim with the Tuna” facility proposed for Kangaroo Island.

The proposal, which is currently being considered by the Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia, calls for the creation of an artificial tuna fishery in the waters of Nepean Bay, which would seriously jeopardise the natural “clean and green” image of Kangaroo Island.

We believe such a contrived facility is at odds with the State Government’s new growth plans for the region and its renewed commitment to protect the Island’s unique natural heritage and pristine environment.

As an Association, we have undertaken preliminary investigations of the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the Swim with the Tuna proposal and deem it entirely inappropriate for numerous reasons, including:

- The proposal is inconsistent with the designation of the area as the Encounter Marine Park;
- The proposal is inconsistent with the tourism branding and positioning of the Island and the Kangaroo Island Strategic Tourism Plan 2006;
- The proposal has the potential to cause contamination that may negatively impact existing shellfish aquaculture in the area; and
- Caged tuna pose a threat to the health and safety of marine mammals which naturally live in the region, in particular the Australian sea lion which is listed as vulnerable pursuant to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Significantly, Kangaroo Island's brand promise to visitors is as a "wild and welcoming natural destination", however the Swim with the Tuna proposal is neither wild nor natural. It is based on tuna in captivity; tuna that have been caught and brought over to Kangaroo Island which has no immediate association with the species.

We believe that an unnatural, manufactured commercial facility of this type not only fails to invoke the benefits or emotions that a visitor would normally attribute to a "wild" and "natural" destination, but indeed flies in the face of this brand promise.

IBRA welcomes efforts to develop Kangaroo Island and commends the State Government and the Economic Development Board for its commitment to growing the Island as a world-class tourism asset and agricultural producer, but we believe proposed developments must reflect the region's natural character, which is what attracts so many people to the Island in the first place.

A Gold Coast-style facility bobbing in the bay would be totally out of place on Kangaroo Island. It would endanger the area's sensitive marine environment and be a blight on the unspoiled coastal waters.

On behalf of IBRA, I ask that you give serious consideration to our concerns and support our call for the Swim with the Tuna proposal to be rejected.

Yours sincerely,



**PETER DE CURE**  
**PRESIDENT, ISLAND BEACH RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

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