

HON ZOE BETTISON MP
Shadow Minister for Tourism

HON LEON BIGNELL MP
Member for Mawson

Tuesday 19 March 2019

Kangaroo Island Visitor Centre closed

In a shock decision, the Kangaroo Island Visitor Centre at Penneshaw will close from Sunday 24 March.

The Visitor Centre is based in a building that is owned by the Kangaroo Island Council but operated by Tourism KI. At their latest board meeting, Tourism KI made the decision to close the centre after reserve funding ran out.

Despite lobbying efforts from Tourism KI to the local council, new funding is yet to be secured. During Question Time in Parliament today, Tourism Minister David Ridgway said he has yet to discuss the issue with the South Australian Tourism Commission.

The tourism industry is important to the Kangaroo Island economy. Visitors to the Island spent \$168 million in the 2016-17 financial year. The industry is also an important jobs generator, one in five jobs are tourism related.

Quotes attributable to Shadow Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison

The Liberal's \$11m cut to the tourism budget continues to take its toll on the industry.

It is an embarrassment that Minister Ridgway has not even bothered to take action to fix this situation.

Kangaroo Island is one of the most iconic tourism destinations in Australia. The Marshall Liberal Government needs to support local tourism in KI and provide emergency funding to keep the Visitor Centre open.

Quotes attributable to Member for Mawson Leon Bignell

Tourism is a major employer and is a critical part of the Island's economy.

All Islanders will suffer without information available to visitors on arrival.

Many businesses owned and run by locals promote their unique tourism experiences at the Visitor Centre.

I call on the Government to find a solution to this issue.

Quotes attributable to Ian Drummond, Executive Chairman of Aurora Hotels

This is a retrograde step, and a solution must be found to reopen this valuable service to independent travelers.

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