

Media Release – 6 August 2021

Tourism Regulation Review – Commission calls for better culture in SA tourism regulators

The South Australian Productivity Commission (SAPC) today released its draft report of its regulatory review into tourism regulation to assist the recovery and future development of the state's tourism industry.

Tourism is a significant part of South Australia's economy, directly contributing \$5.6 billion in expenditure in 2020 and employing more than 40,000 South Australians. The sector has been severely impacted by the pandemic, particularly the parts that rely on international tourists.

The terms of reference for this review, which was commissioned on 29 March 2021 by the SA Government, require the Commission to focus on nature-based tourism and agritourism, and identify practical improvements in regulator culture, operational processes and understanding between regulators and businesses.

The SAPC's presiding Commissioner for the review, Dr Matthew Butlin, said the report looks at ways to cut costs, improve the regulatory process and explore barriers to entry for new businesses, investment and innovative development.

"We've already found that one of the main issues for tourism businesses are land use and the regulations covering how they operate, grow and diversify their businesses," Commissioner Dr Butlin said.

"Businesses also identified issues with approval processes, regulator practice and the ability of regulators to accommodate innovative proposals."

The Commission's draft recommendations include proposals for regulators to engage better with tourism businesses and coordinate their regulatory activities, along with recommendations on how regulators can improve their performance and guidance.

The Commission will now consult with stakeholders regarding the information requests identified in the draft report as well as the draft conclusions and recommendations

For more information and to view the draft report, visit:

<https://www.sapc.sa.gov.au/reviews/reviews/tourism-regulation/draft-report>

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