

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

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### Sanctuary Zones Regional Impact Assessment Statements

The State Government has committed to immediately start work on investigating any economic and social impacts arising from establishing sanctuary zones within Marine Parks in three regional areas where local concerns have been raised – Kangaroo Island, Ceduna and Port Wakefield.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said he had secured agreement from the Premier that the three comprehensive Regional Impact Assessment Statements would be completed within 12 months.

“It’s critical that we strike the right balance between any economic impact on local businesses in those regions and the need to protect our marine environment,” Mr Brock said.

“That includes looking to support businesses and communities to take up new and diversified opportunities.

“The Regional Impact Assessment Statements will therefore also investigate the positive opportunities that could arise through marine parks, including marine-related business opportunities and other land-based regional initiatives.

“If these Assessments identify areas of immediate economic concern, then these will be addressed as soon as they’re identified, not at the end of the review.

“The Regional Impact Assessment Statements will provide a strong focus on considering any potential regional impacts, assessing the extent of any impacts and importantly adjusting proposals to ensure regional needs are addressed.

“The Assessments will look at several economic factors, including the effects on employment, existing businesses, capital investment, average income, local population and future development potential.

“Once this body of work has been presented to the government in 12 months from now, we will all have a much clearer picture of how sanctuary zones are working in those three regional areas where there are still some concerns.

“The Marine Parks Act 2007 also requires reviews of marine park management plans within 10 years.

“I’ve also secured agreement from the Premier for a program of management plan reviews to be brought forward to commence within the term of this government,” Mr Brock said.

“I’ve consulted widely about the issue of sanctuary zones in marine parks with many locals, including individuals, councils, commercial and recreational fishers and the conservation movement.

“I’ve listened to locals and have formed the view that a lot of the concerns about the economic impact of sanctuary zones are based more on perception and uncertainty about change – on what might happen, rather than what will happen when the regulations commence on October 1 this year.

“In my many visits across our state, I’ve stressed that my primary concern is the strength of our regions – both as a local member in a regional electorate, and as Minister for Regional Development.

“I’m about supporting our regional communities and I want to see growth in those economies, building on the optimistic and positive mood I’m seeing in my visits and discussions with locals.

“I didn’t support the Bill today because their proposals had the potential to seriously undermine the effectiveness of the marine parks network and undo much of the good work that’s been done over a decade.

“The Bill it sought to wipe out 12 sanctuary zones. This is not what I would call a considered and reasonable approach.

“The time has come to take the politics out of this issue and focus more clearly on exploring the potential in our regional areas and the positive regional economic opportunities that can be developed,” Mr Brock said.