



NORTHERN AREAS
COUNCIL



Mr Michael Lennon
Chair
State Planning Commission
C/- Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure
GPO Box 1815
ADELAIDE SA 5001

1st July 2019

RE: FLINDERS RANGES LANDSCAPE PROTECTION ZONE

Dear Mr Lennon,

The Port Augusta, Flinders Ranges, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas and Port Pirie Councils all share the Flinders Landscape Protection Zone – which explicitly aims to preserve the natural and rural character and scenic features of the iconic Flinders Ranges landscape.

It is with considerable alarm that we note that, as part of the State Planning Reform, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure are proposing to remove the landscape protection zone and revert it to a general rural zone.

This is particularly disappointing given that, whilst the Government is clearly seeking to dilute the significance of the Flinders Ranges landscape, the protections for the Adelaide Hills Face Zone, Barossa and McLaren Vale Character Preservation Zones, are proposed to remain in place.

The Flinders Ranges is an important natural landscape that must continue to be protected from inappropriate development into the future, but also allow consideration to expand compatible, low impact landuses.

For example, the Mid North and Upper Spencer Gulf is experiencing significant growth in renewable energy generation. To date this has focussed on windfarms, which have a high visual and community impact, however there is increasing interest in other technologies including solar PV, solar thermal, pumped hydro and utility-scale batteries.

There are also a range of other potential industrial developments including mineral and agricultural processing facilities, transition of the northern forests, expansion of the Mount Remarkable National Park, additional nature-based tourism ventures and inclusion of the Flinders Ranges on the world heritage list.

Ahead of implementation of the statewide planning and design code for regional Councils at the end of 2019, we seek support from the Planning Commission to urgently convene a local Working Group comprising staff and elected members from each of the five Councils and DPTI representatives, to review the Flinders Landscape Protection Zone.

The purpose of this Working Group will be to identify the current and future development pressures on the Landscape Protection Zone, determine appropriate and acceptable forms of future development, assessment criteria and character protection.

The region has some exciting economic growth opportunities before it however we must not undermine the significance of the Flinders Ranges landscape to the cultural, social, natural and economic values of the region.

We seek your support for this request and would be happy to meet with you to discuss how this can best be progressed as a matter of urgency.

To make arrangements for the Working Group, or to discuss this matter further, please contact Rosalie Jones on: 8633 9777 or email: rjones@pirie.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



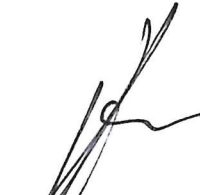
Mayor Peter Slattery
Flinders Ranges
Council



Mayor Brett Benbow
Port Augusta City
Council



Mayor Phil Heaslip
District Council of
Mount Remarkable



Mayor Leon Stephens
Port Pirie Regional
Council



Mayor Denis Clark
Northern Areas
Council

cc: *Hon Stephan Knoll, Minister for Planning*
Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Member for Stuart
Hon Geoff Brock, Member for Frome