



MEDIA RELEASE

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WHARF DEVELOPMENT TO OPEN UP CRUISE SHIP

ACCESS TO KANGAROO ISLAND

Developers of a proposed deep water wharf at Smith Bay on Kangaroo Island will hold talks with major tourism operators in an effort to boost the number of cruise ships visiting the Island.

Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers (ASX:KPT) is planning a multi-purpose wharf at Smith Bay on the Island's north coast to enable the shipment of timber and wood chip from its forestry operations.

KPT Managing Director, Mr John Sergeant, said the wharf would also provide direct access to the Island for international cruise ship passengers visiting South Australia.

"At the moment, cruise ship visitors who wish to tour the Island have to be transferred by tender, which can only operate when weather conditions are suitable," he said.

"A deep water wharf will enable cruise ships to have direct access to the Island, which is one of South Australia's major international attractions.

"This will provide a major boost to the Island's tourism, bringing with it new jobs and income as businesses are set up to deal with the influx of tourist numbers.

"Cruising is exploding in popularity across the world and an increasing number of international ships coming to our shores are looking to provide their guests with unique experiences."

South Australia has just enjoyed a record breaking summer cruise season, with 52 ship visits including 28 calls to the Port Adelaide Passenger Terminal, 19 to Kangaroo Island and five to Port Lincoln.

Leading South Australian tourism industry figure Phil Hoffmann, said construction of the Smith Bay wharf would positively boost cruise ship numbers visiting Kangaroo Island and have a significant impact on the State's economy.

"Cruise ship captains don't like transferring passengers to the Island by tender and would much prefer being able to dock at a wharf," Mr Hoffmann said.

"A wharf at Smith Bay would enable passengers to disembark directly onto Kangaroo Island and close to major tourism locations such as Flinders Chase with its unique flora and fauna.

"This would make Kangaroo Island one of the most important stops for cruise ships visiting South Australia.

“The number of international cruise ships visiting our coast will only increase in coming years, so this would be a real boost to the economy.”

The Smith Bay wharf proposal is currently being assessed by the South Australian Government’s independent Development Assessment Commission.

Mr Sergeant said that if the proposal gained approval, the wharf could be operational within nine months.

While the wharf will be developed by KPT, it will also be made available to other users to expedite the movement of grain, wool, livestock between the mainland and the island.

Further Information:

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