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118 Richmond Road, Marleston SA 5033

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
Government of South Australia

12/4/2019

Dear Minister,

Re Kangaroo Island Development/Australian Walking Company

Walking SA is the not-for-profit peak body that leads, promotes and supports all forms of walking in South Australia, including walking for recreation, transport, health, wellbeing, organised events, adventure, environmental appreciation and fun experiences. Our vision is to see more people walking more often. Our members include walking clubs, informal groups, individuals and organisations whose aims and objectives align with those of Walking SA.

We provide leadership by:

- Promoting opportunities to improve the health and lifestyle of South Australians through walking.
- Offering expertise, guidance and advocacy for the development and maintenance of safe and supportive walking environments throughout South Australia.

Walking SA believes that appropriate consultation with key stakeholders is an essential part of any project that has community impact. As a member of Friends of Parks we are concerned that the Friends of Parks communities on Kangaroo Island have not had their voice heard in an appropriate manner for the further development planned on the island contracted to the Australian Walking Company.

Walking SA has previously acknowledged the work done by your department in the establishment of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. In fact the trail was recognised in our Walking SA Walking Awards of 2016 and we have been a strong advocate of the trail at our events, on our website and through social media.

We also welcome the development of experiences that allow more demographics of people to enjoy walking, however if this is perceived to be exclusive we believe this should not be to the detriment of the broader community.

Walking SA is aware of the rising tension across Australia at present in regard to the perceived development of commercial operators infrastructure on public trails. Walking SA's member clubs and the walking community in general believe in the "leave no trace" approach to the environment that we walk through. Any infrastructure should be of minimal impact on the local environment and the balance found between maintaining the environment and the walking activity that is being enhanced.

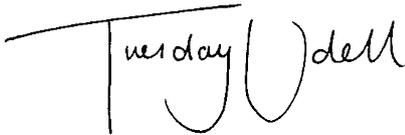
Walking SA also raises that any development of a wilderness area will have a detrimental impact upon the experience of those visiting the region.

Walking SA strongly encourages you as Minister to ensure there is a process for

- The Friends of Parks communities on Kangaroo Island and other concerned citizens to have their views heard on this development, and
- that the Department in consultation with the Kangaroo Island community work collaboratively to achieve an outcome with the Australian Walking Company that minimises the impact on the pristine Kangaroo Island environment.

We look forward to an improved process moving forward.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tuesday Udell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first few letters.

Tuesday Udell
Walking SA Chair

Supported by



Government of South Australia

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing